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AUSTRALIA'S CHOICEST
BUTTER

TSINGTAO CAVALCADE OF SORROW AND TRAGEDY

Flight Follows Looting And Explosions

KONOYE RESIGNATION DENIED

Tokyo, To-day.
Shanghai reports of the imminent resignation of the Premier, Prince Konoze, were officially denied by the Foreign Office this morning.
It is added that Prince Konoze is steadily recovering from his recent illness. — Our Own Correspondent.

BATTLE FOR TSINGTAO RESUMED

Tsinanfu, 1 p.m., To-day.
The Japanese operations against Chinese troops holding the railway between Tsinanfu and Tsingtao were resumed this morning, when a large fleet of naval bombers co-operated with artillery and infantry in an attack on the Chinese defence lines.

At Taian, two brigades of infantry were thrown into action at 7.30 this morning, and the battle is still going on.

The Japanese claim to have captured Pokshan, on the Tsinanfu-Tsingtao Railway, though their advance on Tsingtao has made no appreciable progress.

NEW SHANTUNG GOVERNMENT

The railway line connecting Tsinanfu and Tientsin is being repaired, and in two days the Japanese expect to be able to make use of this important link over which war materials and supplies will be transported to the Shantung front.

In Tsinanfu itself, order has been completely restored, and the Japanese have issued an appeal to the population to return to their homes.

The five-barred flag of the Peking "provisional government" is flying over the town, and indications are that the Japanese are endeavouring to form a pro-Japanese administrative body. — Our Own Correspondent.

BRITON LEADS FOREIGN VOLUNTEER CORPS

Tsingtao, To-day.

Events have commenced to move rapidly in Tsingtao, and the Mayor and garrison commander, as well as all troops and marines, have left the city.

The Chinese police are deserting and looting has begun of the Japanese shopping district. The atmosphere has grown exceedingly tense.

The flow of refugees pouring out of Tsingtao to the interior in an unceasing stream, thickened to-day when thousands upon thousands in the Chinese city were determined to evacuate safely before the arrival of the Japanese.

They travelled on foot, on wheelbarrows and by every other form of transport available, carrying their meagre belongings, and there was a cavalcade of sorrow and tragedy representing another of those tremendous shifts of population which have marked the Sino-Japanese war.

MORE DESTRUCTION

Meanwhile, more valuable property, both Chinese and Japanese, has been blown up, and three explosions following each other in quick succession this morning told of destruction of the Kung Dah Cotton Mill at Tiangkow, 13 miles from Tsingtao.

Yesterday's attempt to blow up the electric plant recently built to supply Japanese mills with power, was not very successful. Only one generator was destroyed and all windows shattered, but it is believed that the Chinese will explode further charges and complete the job.

It is rumoured that the Chinese intend to destroy the Mayor's office and residence and the railway station, as well as the Japanese consulate and the Japanese Town Hall.

BRITON LEADS VOLUNTEERS

The Japanese silk mill and Japanese banks also will be destroyed. Most of the buildings affected are surrounded by homes occupied by neutrals.

Meanwhile, the situation has resulted in the birth of a volunteer corps, members of which are armed only with batons.

Commander of the corps is a Briton, Mr. A. R. Hogg, who has under him a force of 340 men representing all nationals except Americans.

The latter evidently consider it inadvisable to join the corps since the U.S. cruiser Marblehead is in port for the special purpose of protecting American interests. — Reuter.

JAPANESE ANTI-WAR M.P.'S ARRESTED

Tokyo, To-day.

Repeated rumours of growing opposition in Japan to the war party, seem to be borne out by charges brought against two Japanese Members of Parliament this morning.

The M.P.'s in question, Mr. Kato and Mr. Kurota, both belonging to the Taishuto Party, were summoned before the Public Prosecutor on a charge of having committed a "breach of the public peace."

It is alleged that they have been engaged in political activities of a Leftist nature, and that they have been prominent among the anti-war elements. — Our Own Correspondent.

To-morrow being New Year's Day, there will be no issue of the "China Mail". The "Sunday Herald" will be published as usual on Sunday.

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185C3

EVENING DRESS TAKES ON A NEW GLAMOUR

Before Coronation splendour all else must fade this season, but the grand-toilette is with us with many welcome changes from its former rigidity. To all the courtly graces and sumptuous embroideries of a favourite model our modern stylists add a contrasting simplicity of cut. Even for evenings dress must disclose the perfection of the accepted moulded line. Glamorous as the fabrics, embroideries and added gems may be, all would be in vain should the silhouette fail in grace.

Once again there are a number of black frocks appearing, for black is always insistent, and nothing looks more lovely with the return of sparkling sequins. Black faille, used in the old-world ultra full Victorian skirts, alternating with endless yards of net, proves a delightful model. Another lovely black model has a Gauguin-pink taffeta coat with large multi-coloured patterned roses. An unusual colour contrast with black is an underdress of fine black spangled net with a redingote of petunia floral-patterned woven silk.

In all evening collections there is such a variety of colours and lines that no woman need fail in attaining a successful style to suit herself. Any style, providing it expresses beauty, may be termed fashionable. All styles to-day achieve distinction for their success lies in combining the gracious gorgeousness of a romantic past with the improved dressing of the

moment, which signifies that every thing has to be clear-cut and neat.

There is no place for the untidy woman. The debutante must study every line. There is a great change, and improvement, in the ideal of beauty. Sweet simplicity, escaping locks of hair, and an unstudied, uncared-for face will have no success this year. Yet real culture has reached an improved standard. Highly-lacquered nails, over-painted faces, and thinned eyebrows are no longer tolerated. There is good style in these things and a newer sense of fitness and taste.

Lame is a fabric that, like all of the brocade order, must be in the limelight in a season of rich and rare materials. The newer lames are very beautiful and more like watered moire. The patterned look is there, woven with exquisite metal threads. These appear more like an embroidery with a raised effect.

All fabrics seem to possess far more substance, for we are not ashamed of admitting our love of the richness of silks and satins. The bride chooses the tickest satin or faille. The fact is that now embroideries, beads and sequins have returned we recognise that the material they adorn must be worthy of the exquisite stitchery bestowed. Lovely embroideries cannot be worked on indifferent fabrics. So it is that even our tailored evening frocks and ensembles are of richest satins and silks in order to receive any exquisite trimmings, or enhance gems of tradition and value.

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Scottish Songs By Stephen Burnes From The Studio

12.00-12.20 p.m.—Relay of Special Service from St. John's Cathedral.
12.20 p.m.—Gilbert and Sullivan Selections.
1.00 p.m.—Local Time Signal and Weather Report.
1.03 p.m.—Light Orchestral and Vocal.
1.30 p.m.—Renter and Rugby Press; Local Weather Forecast and Announcements.
1.40 p.m.—Variety.
2.15 p.m.—Close down.
6.00-7.00 p.m.—Chinese Programme.
7.00 p.m.—Brahms.
7.24 p.m.—Closing local Stock Quotations and Hong Kong Exchange Market Report.
7.30 p.m.—Studio Recital by Molly

Today's Wireless

ZBW 355 M. 845 k. c's :::: ZEK 640 k. c's

Halloran (Piano) and Claire Hartge (Violin).
1. Kreisler Selection.
2. Dornroschen (Tchaikowsky).
4. On The Edge of the Lake (Summer Day Suite-Coates).
5. Three Ballads:
In Your Arms To-night.
Parlami d'Amore.
Where Are You?
6. Glamorous Nights—Selection (Ivor Novello).
8 p.m.—Local Time Signal, Weather Report and Announcements.
8.03 p.m.—Studio—Stephen Burnes (Lyric Tenor) in a Scottish Programme Accompanied by A. T. Lay (Piano).
8.30 p.m.—Scottish Orchestral Foursome.
Meredith-Kay And His Orchestra.

8.40 p.m.—Variety.
9.15 p.m.—London Relay—Five Years of Empire Broadcasting.
A talk by the Director Of The Empire Service, Mr. J. B. Clark.
9.30 p.m.—London Relay—The News.
9.50 p.m.—Songs by Muriel Brunskill (Contralto).
Songs Of The Hebrides—Kishmull's Galley (Kennedy-Fraser).
In Hebride Seas.
The Banks Of Allan Water (Old Scottish Ballad).
10 p.m.—Scottish Orchestral.
10.12 p.m.—Relay of the Dance Orchestra from the Grill Room of the Hong Kong Hotel.
11.58 p.m.—Auld Lang Syne.
12 midnight—Bells of the Cathedral Ringing in the New Year.
12.10 a.m.—Close down.

max Concert will be held in the Landithy Hall, Madron, Cornwall.
11.30 a.m.—Organ Recital.
12.00 p.m.—The Wessex Players.
12.15 p.m.—Topical Talks for Seamen.
12.30 p.m.—Henry Hall and his Dance Orchestra.
1.15 p.m.—Five Years of Empire Broadcasting.
1.30 p.m.—The News and Announcements. Greenwich Time Signal at 1.45 p.m.
1.55 p.m.—Close down.

TRANSMISSION 3

Frequencies—
GSH 21.47 Mc/s (13.97 m.)
GSG 17.79 Mc/s (16.86 m.)
GSF 15.14 Mc/s (19.82 m.)
GSJ (to 3.30 p.m.) 21.53 Mc/s
2.15 p.m.—Big Ben. A Mozart Programme.
3.00 p.m.—"At the Black Dog."
3.30 p.m.—Jack Hardy's Little Orchestra.
3.45 p.m.—Five Years of Empire Broadcasting.
4.00 p.m.—The News and Announcements. Greenwich Time Signal at 4.15 p.m.
4.25 p.m.—Musical Interlude.
4.30 p.m.—"Made in Great Britain"—3. Stourbridge Glass.
5.00 p.m.—Close down.

BERLIN BROADCAST

On stations DJA 31.38 m., DJB 19.74 m., DJE 16.89 m., DJN 31.45 m., DJQ 19.63 m.
H.K.T.
1.10 p.m.—Music for all.
3.00 p.m.—News and Economic Review.
3.30 p.m.—Special Military Concert.
4.45 p.m.—Old Year's Eve's Broadcast.
5.45 p.m.—Topical Talk.
6.00 p.m.—Scenes from "The Winter's Tale" by William Shakespeare.
8.00 p.m.—News.
9.15 p.m.—The Old Year.
9.45 p.m.—Sonata in F-Minor by Beethoven.
10.00 p.m.—News and Economic Review.
10.15 p.m.—To-day in Germany.
10.30 p.m.—Old and New Brass Chamber Music.
11.45 p.m.—Topical Talk.

BRIDGE NOTES

By ELY CULBERTSON

Responses To Opening Suit Bids Of One

Responses to an opening suit bid of one are divided into two classes:

(1) Limiting Responses, which include all no-trumps responses and raises of partner's suit, and which immediately tell our partner the limits of strength of our hand.

(2) Exploratory Responses, or bids in a new suit, which in no way define the maximum strength of our hand but do define the minimum strength in accordance with the level at which the Exploratory Response is made. These Exploratory Responses are all temporarily forcing bids, and the opening bidder is required to bid again.

When our Exploratory Response is made at the level of one (the one-over-one), it allows our partner to make his rebid at the one-level also. Hence, the minimum strength necessary for a one-over-one is no more than that necessary for a one no-trumps response. When the Exploratory Response is made at the level of two (such as two clubs over an opening one heart bid), we are taking the bidding past the one-level, and hence must have certain definite values in our hand.

The delicacy involved in the one-over-one, which may be made with a very weak hand, is one aspect of scientific bidding that puzzles many players at first. For instance, we will be asked, "What is the correct response to partner's opening one heart bid, holding:

S.—K J x x
H.—x x
D.—x x x x
C.—Q x x

We reply, "One spade." We are now asked, "What is the correct response to partner's opening one heart bid, holding:

S.—A K x x x
H.—x x
D.—A x x
C.—K x x

Again our reply is "One spade."

Now our questioner says, "How can the original bidder possibly tell which of these two hands you have?" to which the answer is as follows:

He should assume we have the first hand of one of equal strength until we show him otherwise. For instance, suppose he has a minimum or near-minimum bid with a balanced hand. Over our one spade he simply rebids to one no-trumps. Now, with the first hand we simply pass, and he knows we have little strength; with the second hand we show our great strength by jump-

ing the bidding.

Returning to the first hand, people often say, "Since one no-trumps is always a weakness response and you do have a balanced distribution, why do you reply with one spade and not one no-trumps? Our answer to this is that since we have a weak hand and can make only one bid, we would rather show our partner where our meagre strength is. If we respond with one no-trumps and our partner has a minimum or near-minimum opening, he will pass, and it may be found that we have missed an opportunity to play the hand at a much more satisfactory spade contract. If he has a good hand, he will bid again, but our chance to show our spades at the level of one has passed.

However, when we respond with one spade, if our partner has a minimum balanced hand, he bids one no-trumps, getting us into the same final contract that our one no-trumps response would have. If he has a minimum hand with good spade support, he bids two spades, and we play the hand at spades instead of at no-trumps; while, if he has a good hand, he makes a strong rebid. In this case he does not know how good our hand is, but he has received the valuable information that we have something in spades.

Another great advantage of the neutral one-over-one lies in the difficulties it places in the path of one's opponents. If you respond one no-trumps, you immediately disclose your weakness and give your opponents a chance to get into the bidding, knowing that they are in no great danger from your hand. When you respond with the one-over-one, however, they have no idea of your holding at all, and, accordingly, until you show weakness by a subsequent pass, they are going to be afraid of you. The longer they are forced to wait the harder it is for them to take satisfactory action.

Some people still use the one no-trumps response merely to inform partner that they do not hold as much as an ace and a king. This means that they must make this response with all sorts of distribution; they may hold a singleton or two five-card suits. But it is much more important to show partner your distribution than that you lack a trick and a half. And the weaker the high card holding the more necessary it is to have the advantage of a trump suit.

BROADCAST FROM DAVENTRY

TRANSMISSION 1

Frequencies—

GSG 17.79 Mc/s (16.86 m.)
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GSD 14.76 Mc/s (20.33 m.)
GSB 9.51 mc/s (31.55 m.)

G.M.T.

8.15 a.m.—Big Ben. Billy Mayerl (Pianoforte).
8.25 a.m.—BBC Ballroom—1909.
9.05 a.m.—"At the Black Dog."
9.35 a.m.—The News and Announcements. Greenwich Time Signal at 9.45 a.m.
10.00 a.m.—Recital of Scottish Reels and Dances.
10.10 a.m.—Five Years of Empire Broadcasting.
10.25 a.m.—Close down.

TRANSMISSION 2

Frequencies—

GSJ 21.53 Mc/s (13.93 m.)
GSH 21.47 Mc/s (13.97 m.)
GSG 17.79 Mc/s (16.86 m.)
GSO 15.18 Mc/s (19.76 m.)

10.45 a.m.—Big Ben. A Grand Christ-

What's On At the Cinemas

AT THE MAJESTIC—"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde", with Fredric March and Miriam Hopkins. The outstanding performance of Fredric March's career. The parts are well acted and true in all details with the original story. Worth seeing again.

AT THE KING'S—"Way Out West".—Sad faced Laurel and pompous, jolly Hardy are a riot of fun from the time they enter the picture across a desert stream with their trick donkey until their fade-out crossing the stream on the way back. It is their first Western and the boys whoop it up as a pair of "tenderhearts." In the supporting cast are Sharon Lynne, James Finlayson and Rosina Lawrence.

AT THE ALHAMBRA—"Born Reckless".—Smashing cars to bust a new racket, action, romance, excitement, comedy in a punch-packed thriller that will hold one on seat-edge. The highly competent cast includes Brian Donlevy, Rochelle Hudson, Barton MacLane, Robert Kent and Harry Carey.

AT THE ORIENTAL—"The Road Back", with Barbara Read, John King, Richard Cromwell, Slim Summerville and Lionel Atwill. Intensely human, powerfully dramatic with a skilful blending of comedy, pathos and suspense the story vividly tells of life in Germany following the Armistice. It concerns the efforts of a group of boys to adjust themselves to conditions as they find them after four years of absence in the trenches. The sequel to "All quiet on the Western Front" and written in the same outspoken manner.

AT THE QUEEN'S—"45 Fathers", with Jane Withers, Thomas Beck, and Louise Henry. A hilarious comedy in which forty-five millionaire bachelors sign up as Jane's guardians in a hope to make a lady out of her, but she almost makes a wreck of them all.

AT THE STAR—"Cleopatra", with Claudette Colbert and Henry Wilcoxon. All the splendour of Ancient Rome. The love story of the most alluring woman in history, which caused the downfall of the two greatest statesmen of her time.



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Screen play by Charles Rogers,
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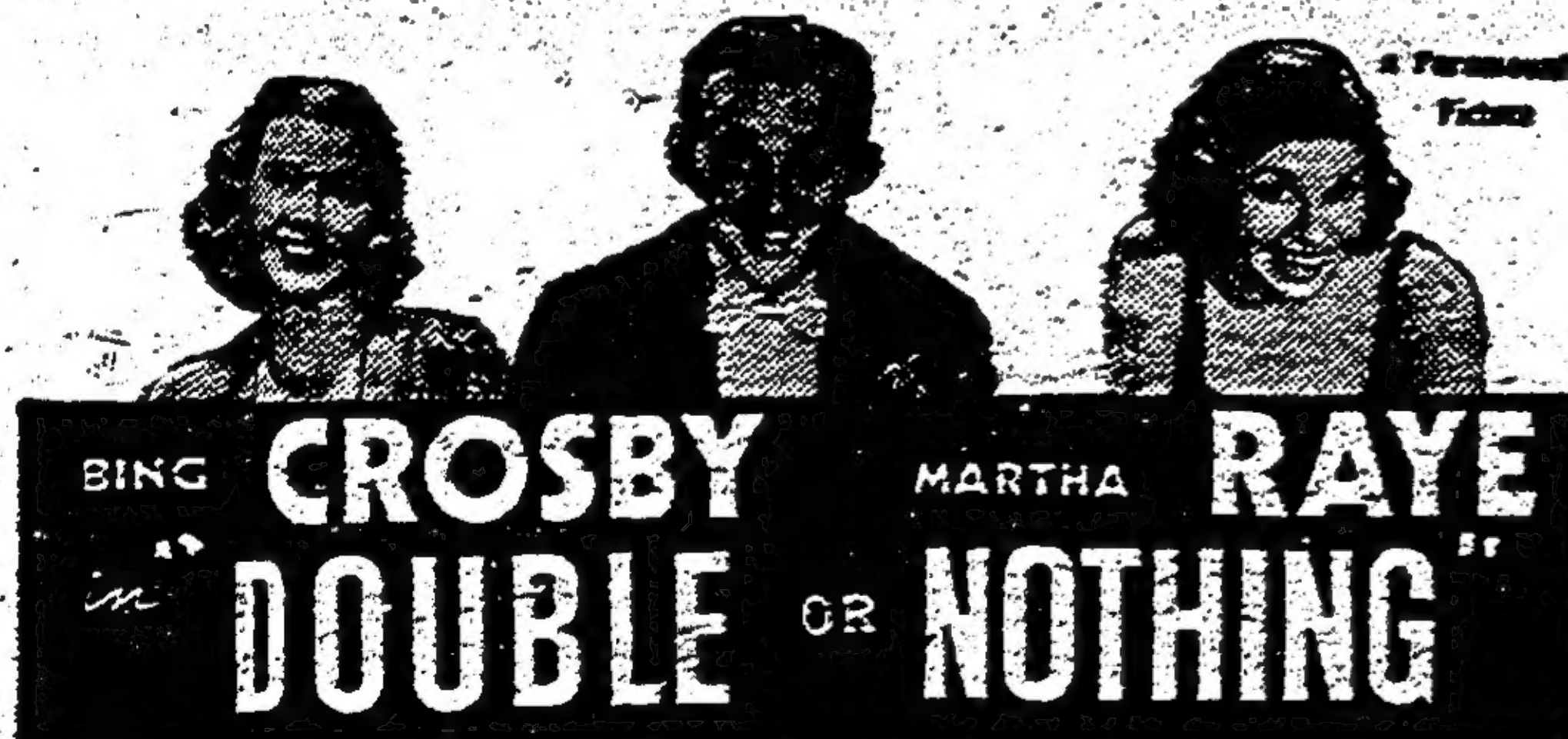


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Both Local and Coastal

SLUM CLEARING CAMPAIGN'S PROGRESS

London, To-day.

Returns issued by the Minister of Labour show that good progress is being made in the final stages of the Government's great slum clearance campaign. During the year ended September 30 last, 58,439 houses were demolished or closed compared with 45,148 during the previous 12 months.

To the same date, 163,274 houses with accommodation for 764,669 persons have been provided for the purpose of rehousing persons displaced by slum clearance operations.

The return also records that 3,484,132 new houses have been built in England and Wales since November, 1918.—British Wireless.

PARIS GETTING BACK TO NORMAL

Paris, To-day.

The transport strike leaders decided at 4.30 o'clock yesterday morning to call off the strike and order the immediate resumption of work.

The resolute action taken by the French Government and its threat to employ troops for maintaining all essential services induced the strike leaders to give way as they feared the consequences of allowing matters to come to a head.

Apparently they accepted the Trade Union's advice to show moderation although the Trade Union headquarters have been surprised by the quick response to their appeal. It is generally expected that Paris will return to normal conditions during the early hours of to-day.—Trans-Ocean.

YACHT THEFT

Capt. Laird, of the Seaforth Highlanders, reports the theft from the yacht Curlew in Causeway Bay of a barometer and thermometer valued at \$20.

The E. and A. Steamship "Nankin" will leave for Manila, Rabaul, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart to-morrow at 2 p.m.

CENTRAL
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TO-DAY & TO-MORROW

Daily at 12.30, 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.

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Peggy Heston

Also showing: Latest Universal
News From the Shanghai
Front! Picture of the
Gallant Doomed Battalion

JAN. 2 & 3.

Shirley Temple in
"STOWAWAY"

CONFLICT IN TERUEL CLAIMS

Madrid, To-day.

There has been little change in the situation around Teruel during the last 24 hours, though fierce fighting is in progress.

The claims of the two sides are more conflicting than ever. The Nationalists are said to be still holding out in some sections of the town, while both sides claim to have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.—Reuter.

BURGLARIES ON THE PEAK

An intruder entered the house of Mr. P. S. Cassidy, 30, The Peak, between 3 and 6 o'clock this morning, and stole money and jewellery to the value of \$286.

Another attempted burglary took place between 4 and 5 o'clock this morning at the residence of Mr. J. C. Miller, 32 The Peak. The intruder was disturbed and took to his heels without having taken anything.

NEW NETHERSOLE HOSPITAL

The opening of the new Nether-sole Hospital has been arranged to take place on Friday next at 11.30 a.m.

It is learned that His Excellency the Governor has consented to perform the opening ceremony, and that Sir Geoffrey will be accompanied on his visit to the hospital by Lady Northcote.

SOLDIER KNOCKED DOWN BY BUS

Private Bumpstead, of the Middlesex Regiment, was admitted to Bowen Road Military Hospital this morning with injuries to his right leg. He had been knocked down by a bus in Nathan Road.

CONGREGATION OF UNIVERSITY

The annual Congregation of the University of Hong Kong will take place next Wednesday at 5 p.m. The degrees will be conferred by the Chancellor, Sir Geoffrey Northcote.

FANLING HUNT

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Northcote are returning to Government House from Fanling Lodge on Monday.

It is learned that to-morrow, the Fanling Hunt is meeting at Fanling Lodge.

London, To-day.—Agricultural returns for England and Wales for 1937 show an increase in the area under wheat to 1,731,833 acres from 1,704,469 last year.—British Wire-

MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN HONG KONG ARE BECOMING INCREASINGLY DEFENCE-CONSCIOUS!

LITTLE KNOWN TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD (AND, IT MAY BE ADDED, TO HONG KONG AS WELL!), HONG KONG TO-DAY IS TEEMING WITH MILITARY ACTIVITY AS BRITAIN'S "LITTLE GIBRALTAR" PREPARES ITSELF AGAINST AN ATTACK, SAYS A CORRESPONDENT IN THE LATEST ISSUE OF "THE CHINA WEEKLY REVIEW" IN SHANGHAI.

Deepening of the Japanese crisis, the Review writer reports, are paved and the movement of Nipponese so that guns can be drawn up to military and naval units in South carefully pre-determined positions. China are making the British. If one approaches one of these new authorities increasingly defence- roads, the guard will question him conscious, he reports. as to what he wants.

"Even as these lines are written comes the report from London that Hong Kong's defences are to be even further strengthened, that the original defence schemes now nearly completion will be augmented with the new naval defence project for the Pacific, supplementing the \$20,000,000 being spent on Singapore and fortresses at Penang.

"For the first time it is stated that capital ships will be permanently assigned to the China stations, and the present fleet strength in Far Eastern waters reinforced with more submarines, aircraft, destroyers and auxiliaries," he states.

Manoeuvres Significant

Nestling in Hong Kong's hills are units of a vast military machine built up recently at the cost of \$5,000,000 so as to meet any threat. The first indication that the Colony's comprehensive programme is nearing completion were manoeuvres held on a large scale this spring, the activities of which were, given the minimum amount of publicity, the correspondent writes.

During the past two years, one of the chief factors of the defence programme is a network of countless roads. All the important routes,

the Review writer reports, are paved so that guns can be drawn up to carefully pre-determined positions. If one approaches one of these new roads, the guard will question him as to what he wants.

He will be told that no one is permitted on these roads, the correspondent reports.

Continuing this analysis of defence, the writer points out that the Hong Kong Volunteer Corps which in the past was more of a social undertaking is now seriously administered and has been greatly expanded. Manoeuvres, are held regularly, and the corps now has an efficiency in man and equipment which belies its reputation, he relates.

16-Inch Guns

The regular garrison in Hong Kong, the Review article reveals, has been considerably strengthened and possesses the most modern equipment in use by the British fighting forces. The backbone of this equipment is said to be 16-inch and smaller guns mounted in impregnable position throughout Hongkong.

"One needs but visit an abandoned fort in Hong Kong to get an idea of what the new forts consist of. At one old fort, I saw an 8-inch gun in a steel and concrete position that apparently, would defy almost anything. This abandoned position—commanding Lyemooon Pass—is

(Continued at foot of Next Col.)

QUEENS

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FINAL SHOWINGS TO-DAY

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JANE WITHERS

45 FATHERS

THOMAS BECK LOUISE HENRY 20 The HARTMANS 20

TO-MORROW

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complete with underground passage, a paved road leading to it, and with an appearance so impressive that one wonders why it has been abandoned," he states.

To-day, War Office engineers work like Trojans to complete the mounting of new guns and the building of even more powerful positions. Working with the utmost secrecy, these engineers will never reveal to anyone that 16-inch giants of war are moved under the cover of night to their strategic emplacements, the correspondent writes.

300 Planes Available!

One of the most important phases in Hong Kong's land defence is against aerial attack. Even the Hong Kong resident, he says, knows that the anti-aircraft volunteer detachment has been more than doubled and the anti-aircraft garrison likewise.

Those in the know, he reports state that no less than 300 military airplanes are available for instant use and that there are a sufficient

number of 4-inch anti-aircraft batteries to carry out an almost impregnable air defence of Hong Kong. In addition, Hong Kong authorities have just announced a two-week period of air defence manoeuvres in which the Colony's population of a million and a half will take part.

Chiefly a naval base, Hong Kong is also preparing for attack from the sea. Manoeuvres of the fleet go on endlessly, cruisers, airplane carriers, submarines and other war-craft steaming out of the strategic Lyemooon Pass. Within the main harbour there is accommodation for not only 25 vessels of the regular China fleet but more and larger vessels as well, the correspondent points out.

Of vital significance is the fact that Hong Kong may be utilised by Britain's allies, such as France and the United States, he asserts.

Thus, he concludes, that in Hong Kong's scenic hills may lie Britain's military cog in the Far East.

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AMERICAN MONETARY AGREEMENT WITH CHINA CONTINUING FOR 6 MONTHS

London, To-day.

Interpreting the statement by the United States Secretary of Treasury, Mr. Henry Morgenthau, that the understanding with China relating to purchase of silver and sale of gold will continue till July 1 as indicating that there is now no possibility of Chinese stocks in London being flung on to the market, bears in silver rushed to cover yesterday.

Sellers were most reserved, and bears were forced to pay up to 19½d, though business was only small. Later the market quietened down, closing with buyers at 19d.

Though India has been the biggest buyer, it is interesting to note that American bears have been particularly keen to cover commitments.

It is pointed out that China will now have plenty of time to liquidate any stocks remaining within her boundaries.

BARGAINING WEAPON

The market is somewhat mystified regarding extension of the American understanding with Mexico and Canada till January 31.

Some suggest that the understanding has not been renewed till later as President Roosevelt intends to use it as a bargaining weapon.

Others express the opinion that the United States Government is temporising pending President Roosevelt's statement.—Reuter.

M. DEGRELLE FINED FOR LIBEL

Brussels, To-day.

M. Leon Degrelle, leader of the Belgian Rexiste (Fascists), was fined 25,000 francs yesterday by the Antwerp civil court for having libelled the Mayor of Antwerp, leader of the Flemish Catholics.

M. Degrelle had asserted that the Mayor had received a commission of 63,817 francs for negotiating the 100,000,000 francs loan for the city of Antwerp.—Trans-Ocean.

INTERNATIONAL RUBBER PRICE CONTROL

London, To-day.

The price of rubber is now considerably below the level which the Committee considers desirable, stated Mr. van Geldern, head of the Netherlands delegation to the International Rubber Committee, in an interview with the "Financial News" in Amsterdam.

He added that less drastic restriction of production would have brought about a heavier fall.

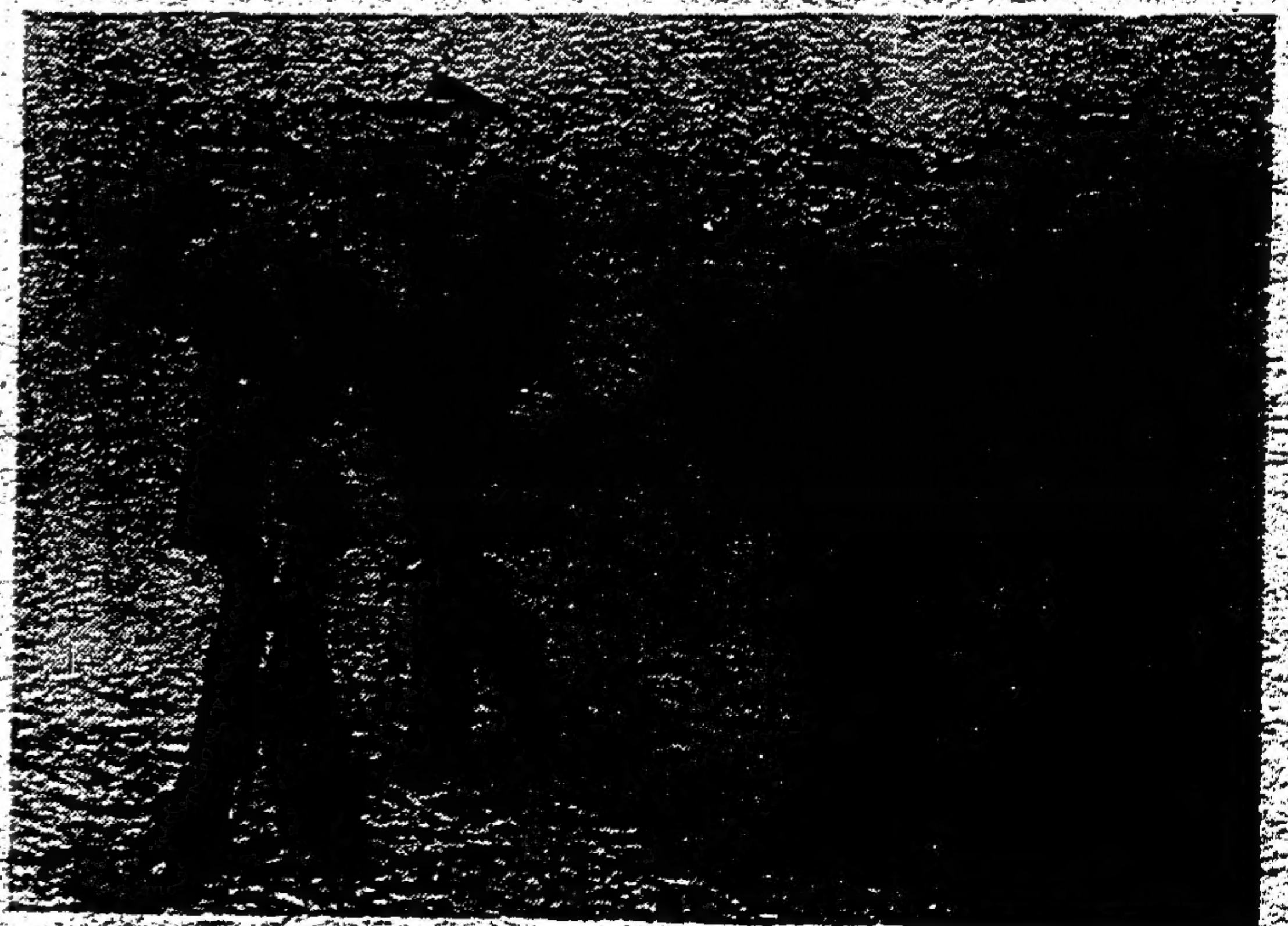
More rigorous curtailment for the first quarter of 1938 would depend on the statistical position of the industry.

If the market situation remained unchanged, he considered it unlikely that the Committee would use the right to alter allowed quotas.

U.S. SITUATION

He expressed the opinion that consumption in 1938 would be less than in 1937, the rate depending almost entirely on developments in the American automobile industry.

He added that the present price of rubber would prevent any large scale production of synthetic rubber.—Reuter.



Vice-Admiral L. G. E. Crabbe, acting C-in-C. of the China Squadron, arriving at Happy Valley yesterday for the annual inspection, accompanied by his staff. ("Mail" photo).

JAPANESE REPLY TO BRITISH NOTE LIKELY TO BE PASSED

Version Of Ladybird Incident Differs; Not Vital

CERTAIN POINTS COUCHED VERY VAGUELY

London, To-day.

Pending the return of the Foreign Secretary yesterday afternoon, it was not certain in London whether the Japanese reply to the British Note on the Yangtse Incidents would be considered acceptable.

Certain points in the reply were considered to be couched vaguely.

Present indications are that the Foreign Office acknowledgment will be cold though courteous in tone.

It is known that the British Ambassador in Tokyo has already objected to the Japanese military report of the Incidents, on which the Japanese Government appears to rely.

Exception is taken to the assumption that foreign warships and merchant vessels had no right in the vicinity of fighting.

OWN REPORT

The acknowledgment may point out that the British Government will prefer to rely on its own report.

Mr. Anthony Eden returned to London yesterday afternoon from Yorkshire, where he spent Christmas. He hopes to leave London next week for a few days' holiday in the South of France, and will then attend the Council of the League of Nations, which opens in Geneva on January 17.

MERCHANTSHIPS TOO

The Prime Minister will be in charge of the Foreign Office during Mr. Eden's absence.

It is now learned in official circles that the British Government notes with satisfaction that the Japanese apologies and other settlements in regard to the Yangtse Incidents, cover the attacks on merchantmen as well as warships.

Whilst the British version of the Yangtse Incidents differs from the Japanese, the British Government appreciates the measures to be taken by the Japanese Government in regard to punishment of the officers responsible, and is glad to note that full guarantees are offered against the possibility of future attacks.—Reuter.

STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION

The newspapers give prominence to the assurances given by the Japanese Government, which apply both to war and to merchant vessels, that adequate measures are to be taken to prevent any recurrence of similar attacks and also that steps are being taken to deal with those responsible.

At the same time, it has not escaped notice in London that the account of the circumstances of the attacks does not correspond with the information in the possession of the British Government. The Note is still

ITALIAN LAND WORKERS FOR GERMANY

Rome, To-day.

Negotiations for sending about 30,000 Italian agricultural labourers to Germany have been concluded states "Tribuna." The labourers who have been chosen by Fascist organisations are due to leave Italy at the beginning of March and will be employed mostly in North Germany and during this time will receive the same wages as German labourers of the same class besides enjoying the same social privileges as they receive from their Fascist organisation at home.—Trans-Ocean.

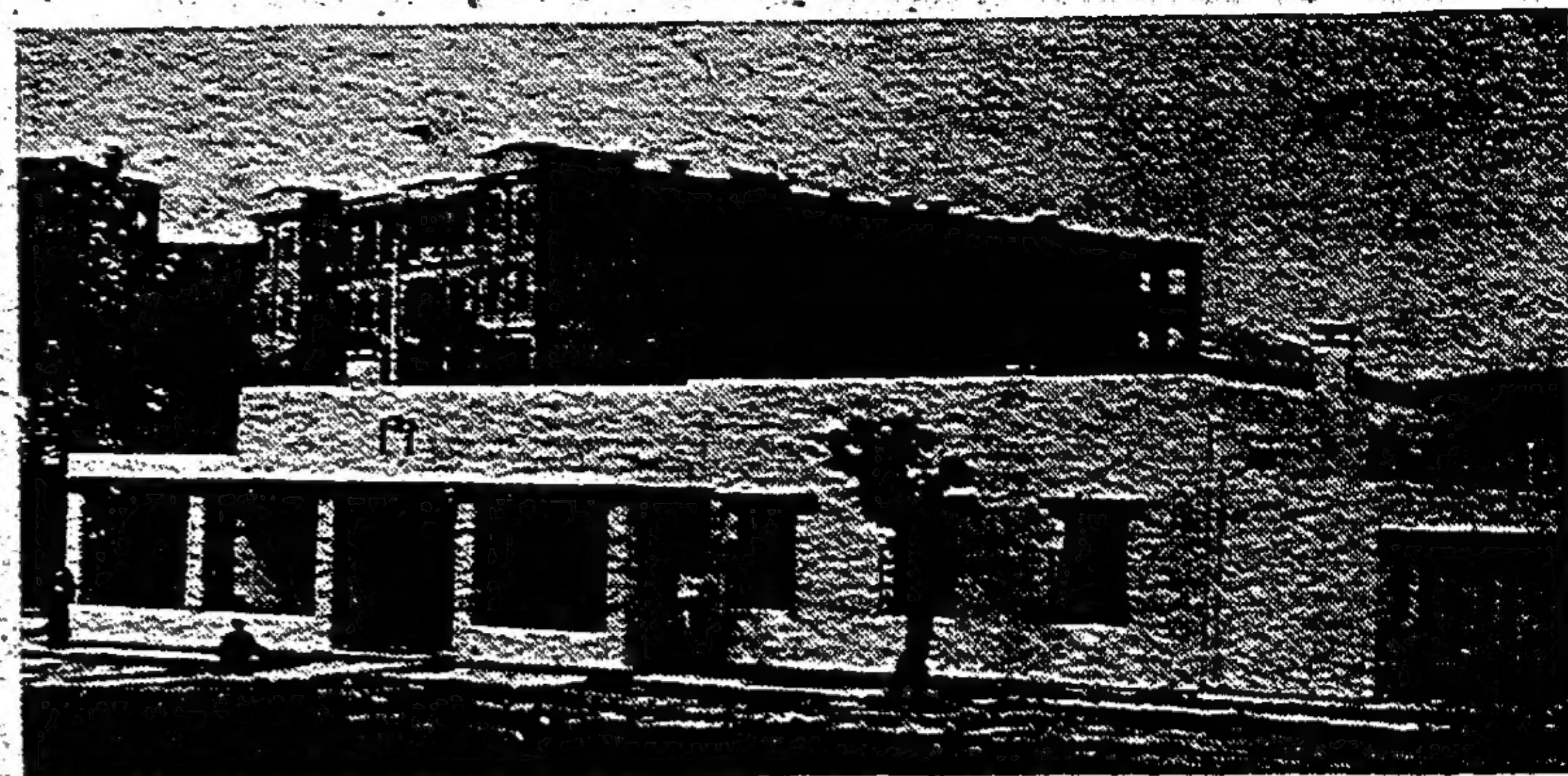
FRENCH "REDS" IN CONGRESS

Paris, To-day.

Addressing the final session of the provincial congress of the French Communist Party, M. Thoreo, General Secretary of the Party, repeated once again his assertion that his Party was ready at any moment to take over the reins of Government of France. In reference to France's financial troubles, M. Thoreo maintained that these could not be attributed to the activities of the Popular Front but, on the contrary, to the fact that the Popular Front programme was not being fully carried. Finally, the French Communist leader made a plea for collaboration between the communists and the social democrats.—Trans-Ocean.

The Management of the Hong Kong Hotel desires to advise patrons who have booked tables for the New Year's Eve Carnival that the Roof Garden will be open as a Cocktail Bar for the occasion from 7.30 p.m.

under consideration at the Foreign Office.—British Wireless.



The new club house of the Kowloon Football Club which will be formally opened to-morrow by Mrs. N. L. Smith, wife of the Hon. Colonial Secretary. The clubhouse is interestingly designed with wide verandas on both sides, one for the bowling green and the other for soccer enthusiasts. The flat roof will be equipped as a delightful evening rendezvous in summer. ("Mail" photo).

JAPANESE FISHING BOATS BAN IN U.S.

Washington, To-day.

Well-informed quarters state that President Roosevelt has requested passage of a bill to effect gradual elimination of Japanese alien fishing-boats from American waters.

The bill will be introduced at the special session by Senator Copeland, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee.

The State Department is also reported to be backing the measure, which will strengthen the provisions that fishing-boats exceeding five tons must be American owned and operated.—Reuter.

BRITAIN AND FREE STATE CONSTITUTION

London, To-day.

The British Government's attitude to the change in the Constitution of the former Irish Free State, is contained in an announcement from the Foreign Office published yesterday evening.

The announcement says that Britain cannot recognise the paragraphs of the new Constitution in which the new State of Eire raises territorial claims to Ulster.

Britain could only recognise the Constitution if Eire claimed only those territories which belong to her as the former Free State of Ireland.—Trans-Ocean.

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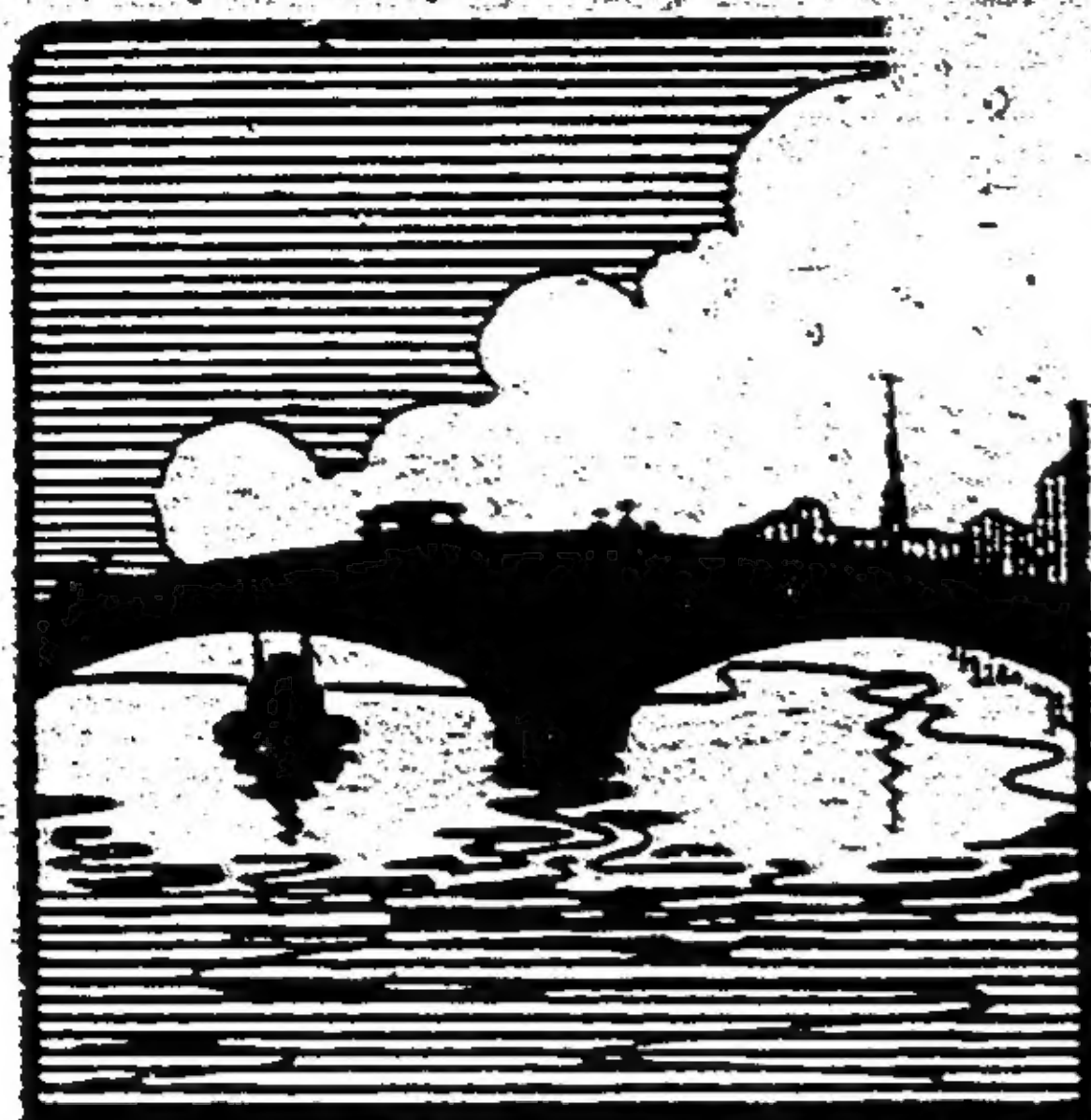
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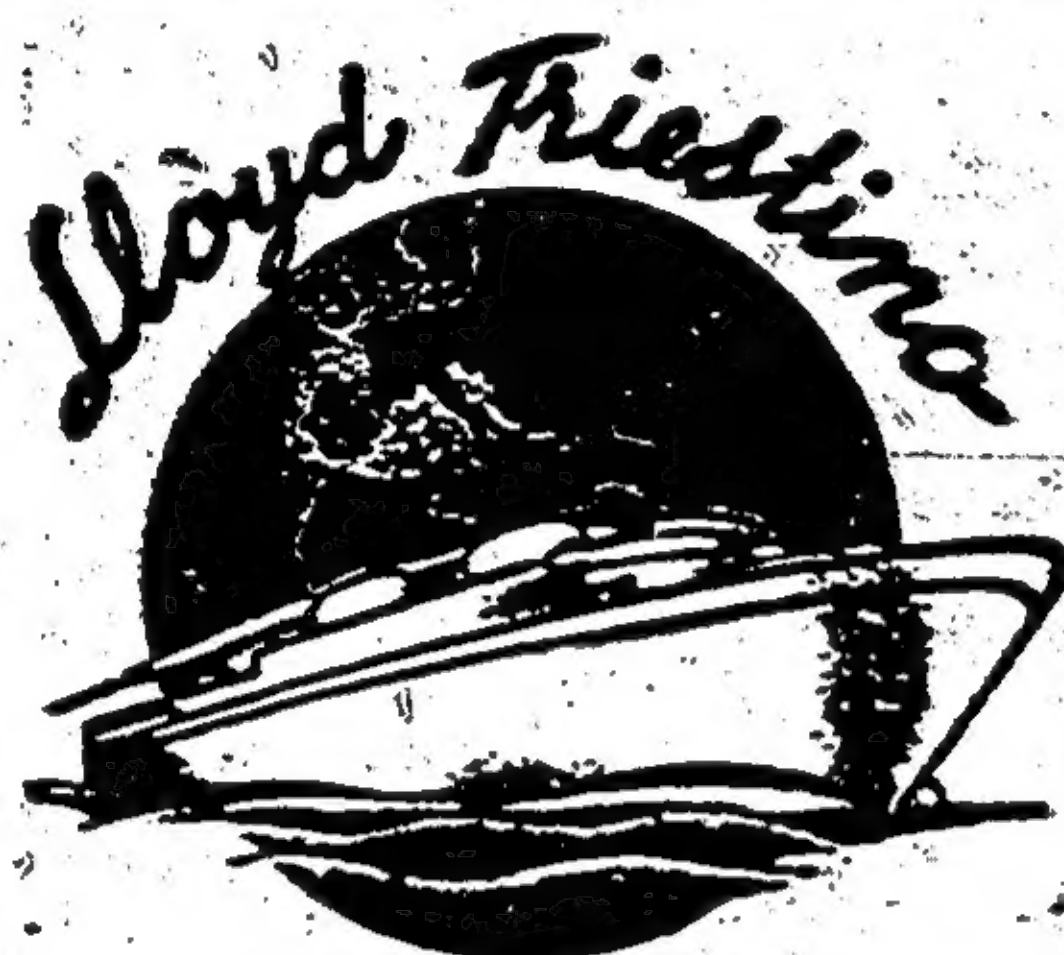
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THE WORLD GOES BY

By "ULYSSES"

THE following lyrical memorandum was read by Mr. A. P. Herbert in the House of Commons recently during the debate on the decline in population. In 1937 was a rumour going round That income-tax was soon to be 6s in the pound; The cost of education every season seemed to swell— And to everyone's astonishment the population fell. They pulled down all the houses where the children used to crowd, And built expensive blocks of flats where children weren't allowed, And if father got a job there wasn't anywhere to dwell— And everybody wondered why, the population fell. Five hundred brand new motor-cars each morning rode the roads And flashed about like comets or sat motionless as toads. Whichever course they took they made the public highway hell— And everybody wondered why the population fell. The laws were very comical: to bet was voted lax, But your betting was the only thing that nobody would tax; You couldn't have a wine unless you'd sandwiches as well— And everybody wondered why the population fell. Great science nobly laboured to increase the people's joys, But every new invention seemed to add another noise, One was always on the telephone or answering the bell— And everybody wondered why the population fell. The taverns were controlled by men who didn't want to drink, The newspapers were run by men who hadn't time to think, The cinema was managed by a man who couldn't spell— And everybody wondered why the population fell.

Abroad, to show that everyone was passionate for peace, All children under seven joined the army or police, The babies studied musketry, while mother filled a shell— And everybody wondered why the population fell. The world, in short, which never was extravagantly sane, Developed all the signs of inflammation of the brain; The past was not encouraging, the future, none could tell— But the Minister still wonders why the population fell.

Why Join The Athenaeum?

The following "blurb" has been issued by the War Office Publicity Department:—

Barracks are becoming like clubs in the British Army of to-day.

According to an Aldershot Command Order, soldiers' recreation rooms are to be provided with settees, adjustable armchairs, writing and card tables, curtains and Arminster rugs.

Tables with white enamel tops and Windsor chairs will appear in the dining rooms, where bread baskets and tea plates, serving dishes and drinking glasses will emphasise the Club atmosphere.

Kitchen fatigue will be a pleasure with the use of machines for butter patting, bread slicing, potato mashing and potato chipping, bacon slicing, meat press, and picking syringes.

In the cook-house Army cooks will wear new white suits, caps and aprons, and the butchers will don overalls and aprons.

When the new barracks, now in course of construction, are completed, the British soldier will be housed and fed in a manner worthy of his honourable calling.

KING'S TO-DAY



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ALLEGATIONS OF PLAN FOR WAFDIST COUP IN EGYPT

Mahmoud Pasha Takes Over Government From Nahas

GRAVE FEARS OF INTERNAL UNREST

Cairo, To-day.

Documents very compromising for the Wafd Party are said to be in the possession of the Egyptian Court.

It is added that these documents, which are said to contain plans for a Blue Shirt march on Cairo and for a Wafd coup d'etat, induced King Faroukh to take the sudden decision to dismiss Nahas Pasha from the Premiership.

This accounts for the new Government's decision to disband and disarm all Shirt organisations.

It is believed that the Court intends to dissolve the executive committee of the Wafd Party, under Nahas Pasha, on the ground of its unconstitutional activities and hostility to the state.

The charge of being unconstitutional is apparently based on the Wafd Party's recent decision that in the event of fall of the Nahas Pasha Cabinet, no member of the party should consent to form a new Government.

PARTY'S FUTURE

Grave fears are expressed lest an attempt by the Court to dissolve the Party, entirely lead to a crisis the consequences of which cannot be foreseen.

On the other hand, the Court and the new Cabinet are determined not to be intimidated, and it is announced that the 4th Battalion of the Egyptian Guard has already been recalled from the provinces to Cairo.

It is said that warrants for the arrest of leading Blue Shirt personalities have already been issued.—Trans-Ocean.

DISMISSAL OF NAHAS PASHA

Cairo, To-day.

"Unsatisfactory conduct of business" is given in the Royal decree as the reason for the dismissal from office of the Premier, Nahas Pasha.

Informed quarters here state that the new Cabinet will consist of 15 members some of whom will be without portfolios and that it is not intended to include either the leader of the Wafdist group or the President of the Chamber.—Trans-Ocean.

LEADING POSTS IN CABINET

Cairo, To-day.

Most important posts in the new Cabinet have been filled as follows, according to the definite and final list issued late last night:

Premier

and Interior

Mohammed Mahmoud Pasha

Vice-Premier

and Finance

Ismail Sidky Pasha

Foreign Affairs	Abdul Fattah
	Jehja Pasha
Justice	Ahmed Khashaba
	Pasha
Transport	Hassan Sabri
	Pasha
War	Hussein Rifki
	Pasha
Public Works	Hussein Sirri
	Pasha
	—Trans-Ocean.

WELL RECEIVED

Cairo, To-day.

The new Egyptian Cabinet, which was received by King Faroukh at 8 o'clock yesterday evening, is accorded a friendly reception by the press.

The papers stress that the new Government, although definitely a minority government, has among its members a number of strong personalities.

The Wafd Party has apparently been taken completely by surprise by the King's quick and determined action, and informed quarters in Cairo believe that the Wafd Party's position will be completely undermined if the King succeeds in gaining the support of the masses.

SOLIDARITY UPSET

Solidarity of the Wafd also appears to have suffered a heavy blow

GERMAN TREATY WITH SIAM

Berlin, To-day.

A Germano-Siamese Treaty of Friendship and Commerce has been concluded at Bangkok.—Reuter.

through the King's action, and it is quite possible that disunion with the Party may lead to a definite split when elections for a new Parliament are held.

With Maher Pasha's victory, the first phase in the Wafd Party's duel with the King for power in the state has been concluded.

The second phase—the battle with parliament—now begins.

A prominent member of the new Government declared to Trans-Ocean's correspondent yesterday that the Government will dissolve Parliament if it fails to find a majority for support of its policy in Parliament.

Elections for a new Parliament would then be held within two months.—Trans-Ocean.

CHARITY FAIR

Under the patronage of the Hon. Mr. M. K. Lo, the Hong Kong Students' Association will hold a Charity Fair to-morrow, at St. Paul's Boys' College, Hong Kong. The entire proceeds will be devoted to war relief work in North China.

The various stalls will be in charge of students from the following schools: Diocesan Girls School, Ying Wah Girls' School, Beiliu Girls' School, French Convent, Yeung Chung Girls' School, Chun Kwong Girls' School, Lai Chak Girls' School, St. Paul's Girls' School, To San Girls' School, St. Stephen's Girls' School, and Heep Yum King's College, Hong Kong University, Wah Tak School of Commerce, Mun Sang College, St. Joseph's College, Chung Wah College, Ching Wah College, Government Vernacular School, and Diocesan Boys' School.

London, To-day.

The total intake of recruits for the Regular Army last week was 265, an increase of 79 over the same week last year.—British Wireless.

NEW PREMIER'S FIRST ACT

Cairo, To-day.

Mahmoud Pasha's first act as Premier has been to disarm and disband all coloured shirt bodies, and orders to this effect at present are being carried out throughout Egypt.

The new Premier declares he intends to act constitutionally, adopt a conciliatory attitude towards opponents, guarantee good administration and render justice all round.

His Cabinet will generally represent all parties except the Wafd (Nationalist) Party.—Reuter.

LOCAL SHARE MARKET

Following is the list of changes and enquiries in local share quotations this morning:—

BANKS
Hong Kong Bank \$1445 b.
SHIPPING
Douglases \$48½ b.
H. K. Steamboats \$8.20 b.

DOCKS, WHARVES, GODOWNS, ETC.
Providents (New) 15 cts. b.

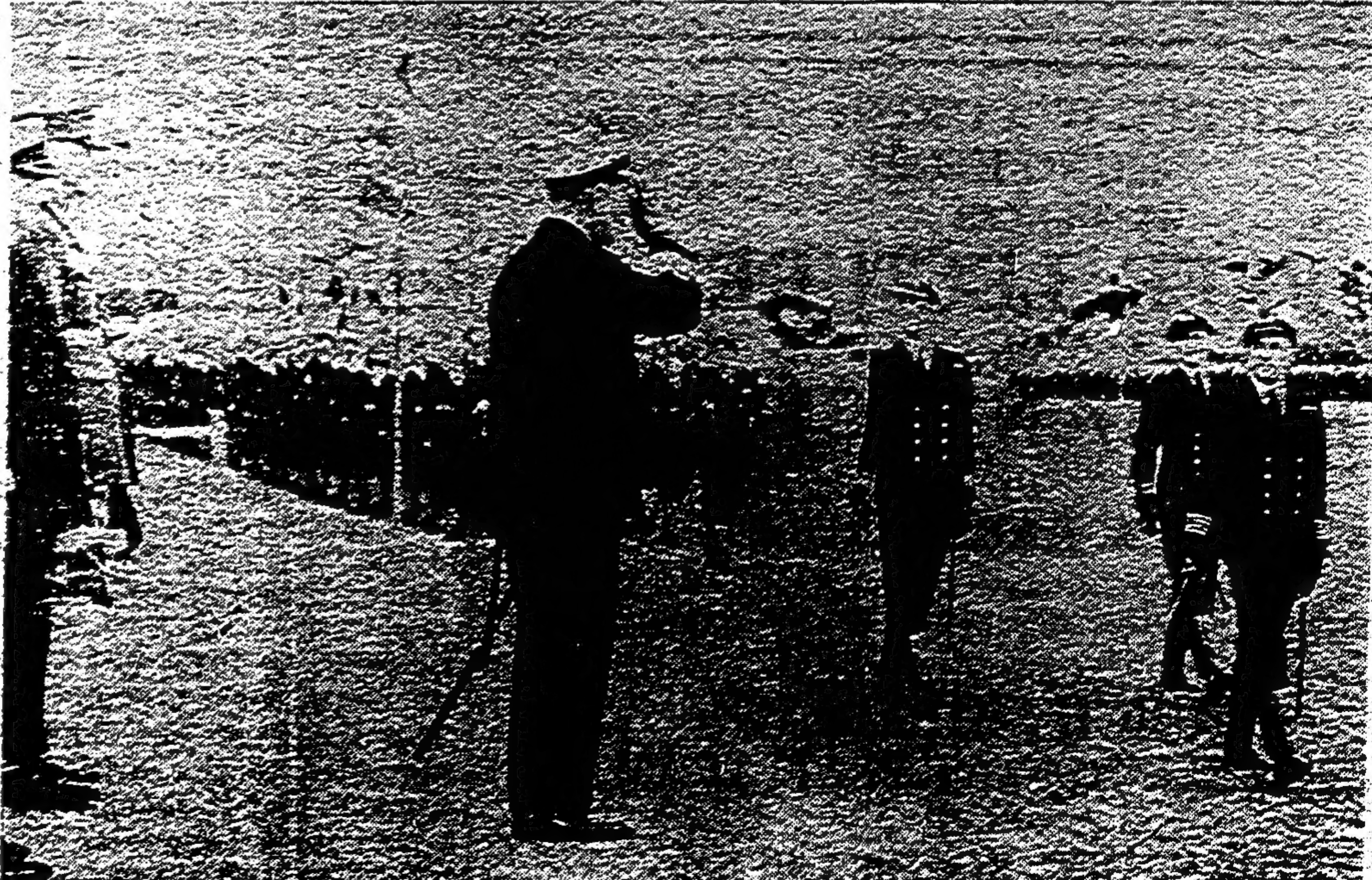
MINING
Raub's \$7.30 b.
H. K. Mines 13 cts. s.

LANDS, HOTELS & BLDGS.
Humphreys \$8.40 s.
H. K. Realities \$4½ s.

PUBLIC UTILITIES
H. K. Tramways \$12.95 b., \$13.20 s., \$12.90 sa.
Peak Trams (New) \$3¾ s.
China Lights \$9.80 b.
China Lights Rights \$4.40/30 sa.
H. K. Electrics \$50¼ b.

INDUSTRIALS
Cements \$12¼ b., \$12½ s.

MISCELLANEOUS
Entertainments \$5.20 b.
Constructions (Old) \$1½ b.
Constructions (New) \$1 b.
H. K. Govt. 3½ pm. b.



The march-past of units of H.M. ships in Hong Kong at Happy Valley yesterday, when Vice-Admiral Crabbe, acting Commander-in-Chief held the annual inspection. ("Mail" photo).



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Hong Kong, Friday, December 31, 1937

THE MIGHTY ATOM

Oscar Wilde once gave himself the credit for having done a hard day's work because "this morning I put in a comma and this afternoon I took it out again," a version of the writer's task sufficiently exquisite to pour studied contempt on the stalwart Trollopian method of getting down to and on with the job at a steady thousand words an hour. Still, it does underline the possible importance and significance of that mighty atom the comma, which has just been the subject of an interpellation in the French Senate, where it was argued that the insertion of one that was not intended in the text of the Wheat Bill might well cost French farmers £3,000,000. The vigilant senator might have added to the force of his argument by mentioning the well-known story which asserts that a precisely similar error did in fact once deprive the United States revenue of some very considerable sums until the mistake was rectified; in a clause admitting "all fruit trees" free of duty a wandering comma that settled itself down after the word "fruit" is said to have opened a huge door for the tax-free entry of everything from melons to mulberries. Certainly no writer who cares for the exact rendering of his thought will treat commas with anything but caution and respect; a year or two ago Lord Dunsany launched a vigorous comma campaign, though one forgets at the moment whether he was protesting against too many or too few. In earlier Victorian days some printers preserved a style of punctuation which sprinkled commas as freely as an April shower; the result, though, perhaps, well-meaning, could be, and, often, was, irritating in the extreme. On the other hand the absence of an intended and appropriate comma may make nonsense of the text; the famous "Piano for sale, the property of a lady with carved legs" is the usual warning on that subject. The comma is a small creature but its power is formidable.

Lord Cecil's Peace Prize

The committee whose duty it is to award each year the Nobel Peace Prize has always chosen wisely, but never more so than this year. Lord Cecil is no root-and-branch pacifist, but his faith in the League of Nations, like that of thousands of others, was—and still is—a faith in peace. As early as 1916, when most statesmen could see no farther than the front line, Lord Cecil suggested to the British Government that it should work out a plan for a League of Nations, and when, two years later, his suggestion was remembered, it was he who did much of the

preliminary work and who drafted the first British plan. From that day Lord Cecil's name has always been coupled with that of the League. As a voluntary worker, as a British Minister, as a propagandist, he has toiled unceasingly for this one great idea. In the early years at Geneva his personality, more than that of any other statesman, impressed its lofty sincerity on the memory of those journalists and spectators who flocked to the meetings. In 1927 he resigned his post in the Cabinet, and though one may wish that he had still been there in the years that followed, and especially in 1931 and 1935, his action then was that of a true "Covenanter." Throughout failures and vicissitudes at Geneva he has never wavered in his long support of the League and all for which it should stand. And if any were to charge him to-day with lack of "realism" or a refusal to recognise changing circumstances he would no doubt reply in the same words which he used in a debate in the Cambridge Union in 1919: "The League of Nations may be idealistic, but it is a preference of spiritual to material things."

A "National Scandal"

It is curious that the House of Lords should have a much greater sensibility to the loss of life on the roads than is shown in the House of Commons. Another evidence of it was given when Lord Newton moved his bill which sought to provide that drivers guilty of manslaughter and other serious offences should forfeit their cars. The bill itself had not much to commend it; but its introduction and its reception showed the feeling of the House in face of what Lord Newton called a "state of affairs which has become a national scandal." "It is utterly impossible," said Lord Middleton, "to believe that we can go on year by year increasing this enormous loss of life on the roads and do so with our eyes open." Lord Mottistone said that during the last eighteen months more civilians had been killed and wounded by motor-vehicles on the roads in Britain than had been killed and wounded in the Spanish civil war. Britain stands in the fantastic position that it has been safer for the civilian to live in Spain at war than to live in Britain at peace.

An Election Rumour

Mr. Herbert Morrison, who is chairman of the Labour party's National Campaign Committee, spoke at Bath recently about "circumstantial rumours" of an early general election. The considerations with which rumour credited certain sections of Conservative tacticians were, he said, the possibility of an early slump in trade and a condition of foreign affairs which made it plausible again to ask for a demonstration of the country's unity. Mr. Morrison was careful not to put undue value upon this rumour, but if it should prove to be true he characterised it in advance as a "prostitution of democracy by trick elections." He thought that normally it was best for Parliaments to run their appointed course, a principle not always espoused by parties in opposition.

CHINESE PENETRATE GAP IN JAPANESE LINE

Heavy Losses Inflicted In Fighting At Fuyang

MISCHIEVOUS YOUNGSTERS ON HANKOW TRAIN

Hankow, To-day.

Over 100 noisy and mischievous school children considerably brightened the departure for Hong Kong at 9 o'clock yesterday morning of the second international refugee train, which carried altogether 313 men, women and children of ten nationalities from Hankow, Kukiang and Kufing.

As in the case of the last refugee train, which was named the "Christmas Express," yesterday's train was christened "The Last Train from Madrid." The train was gaily decorated with enormous British, American, French and German flags on the roofs of the coaches.

The Japanese authorities were advised of the date of departure well within the specified request of 48 hours' notice.

TRAIN STEAMS OUT

For two hours before the train left, the station was a scene of intense activity as leading members of the foreign community worked side by side with office boys in carrying trunks and bundles of bedding, packing them into the train.

At 9 o'clock sharp, a gong sounded and after blowing the whistle, the train slowly steamed out of the station.—Reuter.

INSURGENT OFFENSIVE ON TERUEL FRONT

Saragossa, To-day.

Insurgent forces of considerable strength, backed by massed artillery and aircraft formations, were hurled against Teruel yesterday in a big offensive on a seven miles front, whose main aim is to relieve the garrison still holding out inside the town. According to rebel sources, twenty divisions of infantry are engaged in this battle.

A bulletin issued from General Aranda's headquarters at the end of the first day's fighting says that the enemy's positions had been taken in storm to a depth of two kilometres. Counter-attacks launched by the Republicans had been repulsed with heavy losses. By noon all military objectives set for the first day of the offensive had been reached.

Reports issued from Barcelona claim the capture of a monastery which leaves the defenders of Teruel with the civil governor's residence as the stronghold.

ATTEMPTS REPULSED

A war bulletin issued in Madrid last night says the enemy had been making two big attempts to break through the Republican lines at Teruel. The first attempt, in the hills of Celadas, was promptly repulsed. Fighting in the hills of

Retreat Forced Also On The Pukow Front

Hankow, To-day.

The Japanese advance on the Hientang River continued to encounter greater difficulties yesterday, and the Chinese took advantage of heavy rain to push forward in the direction of Fuyang, which shows a large gap in the Japanese front resulting from an insufficient number of troops.

The Japanese have suffered heavy losses in fighting round Fuyang, and that portion of their forces has been forced to withdraw towards Hangchow pursued by the Chinese, whose vanguard is said to have reached a point some six miles southwest of that city.

Chinese guerilla groups are reported to have gained successes in fighting on the road from Kwangteh to Wushing.

Earlier reports of Chinese capture of Kwangteh are not substantiated, though should this be achieved, Japanese communications would be imperilled.

PUKOW FRONT

Further Chinese successes are reported from the southern sector of the railway from Tientsin to Pukow.

From Ninghuan, north of Pukow, the Chinese have made a thrust in a south-westerly direction and are reported to have taken Chuchow.

It is stated that the Japanese were compelled to retreat towards Pukow.

SHANTUNG CHECK

Chinese reports state that comparative quiet prevailed on the Shantung front.

The Japanese have not yet pushed forward their lines extending from Weih sien to Changchin via Poshan, so that it is generally believed that their advance has been greatly impeded.—Trans-Ocean.

DESTRUCTION OF JAPANESE PROPERTY IN TSINGTAO

Shanghai, To-day.

Chinese troops remaining in Tsingtao set fire early yesterday morning to a number of public buildings as well as private houses.

The largest Tsingtao brewery has been blown up, and the Japanese shipbuilding yard completely gutted by fire.

When the Japanese troops reach Tsingtao, it is obvious that they will be confronted only by the shell of the famous seaside resort.—Trans-Ocean.

Zorro was much more severe but here too the insurgents had been unable to reach their objectives.—Trans-Ocean.

NAZARETH DEATH SENTENCE

Hails, To-day.

Sentence of death was passed yesterday by a military court at Nazareth on an Arab arrested while in possession of a rifle and ammunition during the recent operations in the Galilee Hills.—Reuter.

BRITAIN'S EXCHANGE FUND IN GOLD

London, To-day.

The Treasury has issued the following statement:—

"On 28th June, 1937, in the House of Commons, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made a statement as to the holdings of the Exchange Equalization Account at the end of March, 1937, and undertook that the Treasury would publish, officially, a similar statement every 6 months.

In pursuance of this undertaking, the Treasury announce that on 30th September, 1937, the gold held in account was 39,354,000 fine ounces and that held in the Issue Department of the Bank of England was 75,843,000 fine ounces. The total amount was 116,697,000 fine ounces which at 57 shillings would represent in round figures £315,000,000. At the same date the account did not hold more than a trifling amount of foreign currency.—British Wireless.

FRENCH GOVT. AGREES TO STRIKE DEMAND

Paris, To-day.

The Government has agreed to the strikers' demands, according to a communique issued by the workers' unions in the Paris region and the General Union of Public Services.

Strikers returned to work yesterday morning, and municipal services are now functioning normally again.—Reuter.

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FOR RESERVATIONS

HOLIDAY NOTICE

Customers are kindly requested to note that in celebration of the New Year, our Department Store will be closed to business to-morrow (Jan. 1), but will resume at 1 p.m. on Sunday (Jan. 2) as usual. Café de Luxe Restaurant remains open to-morrow. Extra Special New Year Tiffin & Dinner at \$1.00 per cover on that day.

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NORMALCY IN Foreigners Return To Western District To-Day

Shanghai, To-day.

Effective as from to-day, all evacuees, including Chinese and foreigners, from areas west of Shanghai occupied by the Japanese, are to be allowed to return, a spokesman for the Japanese army and navy in Central China announced to-day.

Hereafter, the spokesman said, all persons engaging in hostile activities and crimes against the Japanese army and the special naval landing party, will be dealt with in accordance with notices of penalties previously issued.

This action is motivated by self-defence, and "it will go without saying that the Japanese forces will put forth every effort to respect treaties to which the various powers are parties and will safeguard foreigners' lives and property."

Yesterday Japanese gendarmes and Chinese police under Japanese control, numbering about 150, were stationed in areas formerly under the control of foreign defence forces.

They will maintain peace and order among the inhabitants and will perform guidance duties to assist refugees returning to their homes.

CO-OPERATION WITH FOREIGN FORCES

Other pacification measures taken by the Japanese for inhabitants in districts of Shanghai are announced. Firstly, refugees returning to the districts will be given passes by the Japanese.

Secondly, in an effort speedily to restore normalcy in the western areas, co-operative measures will be employed by the Japanese with the British and French forces.

Thirdly, foreigners who have such passes given to the Chinese will be granted permission for free movement and residence in the areas.

STRAGGLERS BOGEY

However, there is a possibility, the spokesman said, that Japanese units on the spot might restrict entrance to certain areas for military reasons.

The Japanese forces will not be responsible for injuries suffered by any persons at the hands of "Chinese stragglers."—Reuter.

Z.B.W. will be giving a running commentary on the Rugby match to-morrow between the Navy and the Club.

HANKOW FRONT TO BE STUDD BY PILLBOXES

Shanghai, To-day.

For the purpose of making the approaches to Hankow impregnable, it is understood that General Chiang Kai-shek has ordered the construction of 800 steel-cased concrete block-houses.

The blockhouses, it is reported, will be equipped with anti-aircraft guns, heavy machine-guns and trench-mortars, and each will accommodate eighty men.—Reuter.

CLOUDY WEATHER

The Royal Observatory reports that the anticyclone is moving eastward, and pressure is now highest over the Yellow Sea, Korea and South Japan. Local forecast: winds, moderate; cloudy generally.

ENGLISH MEDICAL INSPECT

The Annual Report of the school children by the Officer of the Board gives evidence, based on 1,700,000 nutrition standards obtained during the 3,000,000 children of medical inspection.



To

All Motorists

Best

for

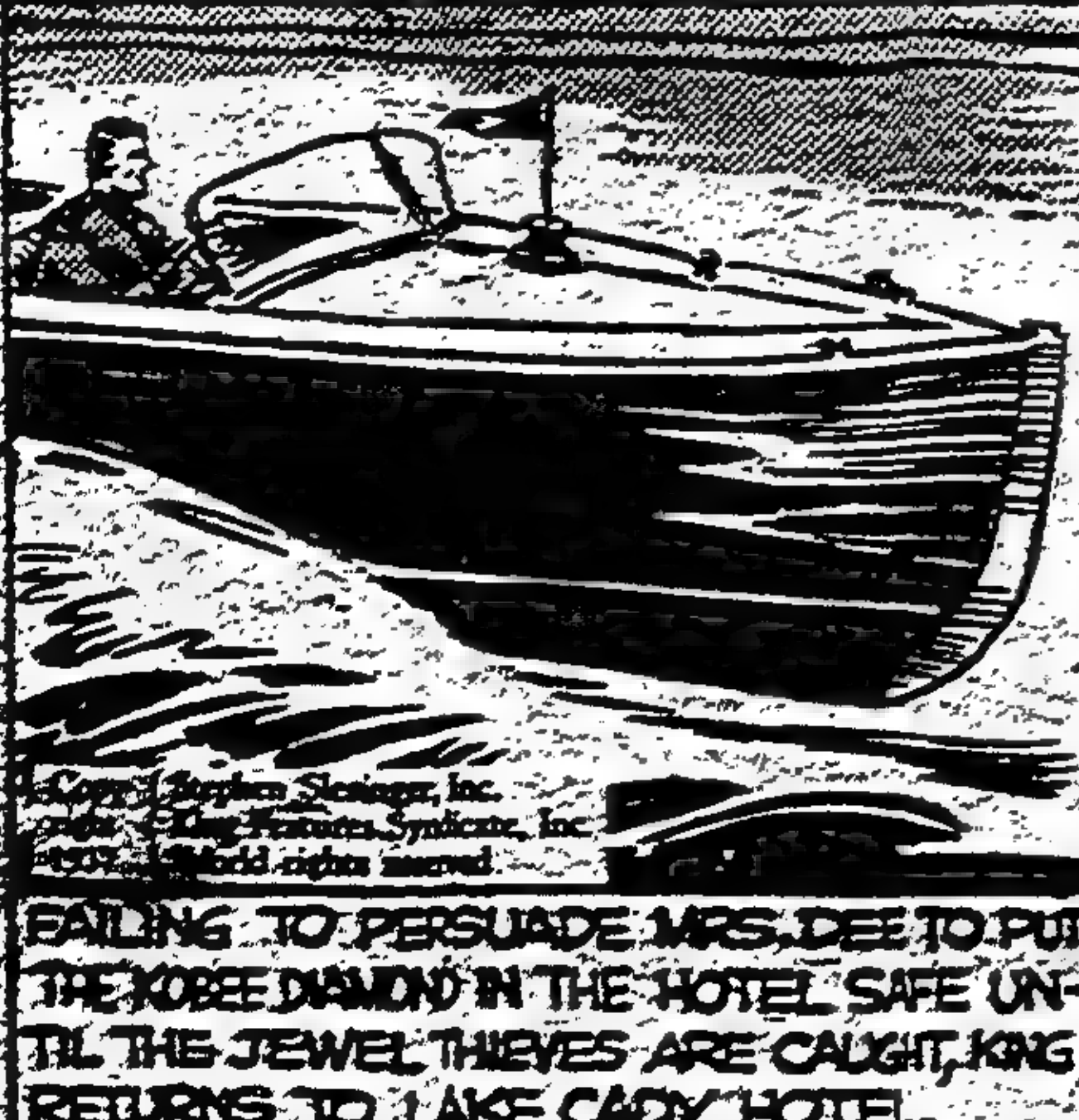
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New

HONGKONG HOTEL GAR

KING OF THE ROYAL MOUNTED

INVESTIGATING A SERIES OF JEWEL ROBBERIES AT A SWANKY RESORT HOTEL, KING LEARNS THAT MRS. DEE, ECCENTRIC WIDOW, HAS THE FAMOUS KOBEE DIAMOND AT HER LODGE.



CHINA MAIL

FRIDAY SUPPLEMENT, DECEMBER 31, 1937

DISPOSSESSED

IN the 'sixties the company's business had expanded very fast. There had been visualised the building of bigger works, sheds and depots, and a great deal of land around the original works was bought. Barely half of this was used, but the company did not care to part with the rest, which they had bought so cheaply and for which the future might find a use.

There was an odd-shaped piece, one edge of which was bounded by a few mean streets, another by a chemical works. No one wanted this land; until in the 'eighties a dour, wizened man in corduroys presented himself at the company's office and asked what the rent was. He thought, he said, of growing potatoes, as he did on some other land not a mile or two away.

They let this man, John Dearth, work on the land; the potato market was good for a while, and when it declined and the land lost heart, he took to growing cabbages, turnips, celery.

With the years the streets of poor houses, the factories and shops had come so much nearer that they almost surrounded the plot of John Dearth, but he went on working, and his son James helped him. He clung to this corner, this fringe of town and half-town, with the idyllic pertinacity of the peasant for his land. Year by year it was exhausted; it had no feeding but the droppings of a goat, a horse now and again turned out to graze.

The old man died; the son became tenant, for he knew no other work. He made his mark on a new agreement which the company sent to him and he paid his rent of £30 a year every quarter. In some fashion known only to God and himself he maintained a family of eight on the sale of his crops. There was no money for hired men, two of the sons worked with him when they had no other work. The fences fell to pieces; there was nothing to buy manure with; but the rent was paid.

UNTIL, of a sudden, the payment ceased. First, second, third demands were sent by the company's treasurer. Dearth ignored them. Then Sims, the outdoor man, was sent along to see him.

"I can't make much sense out of him," reported Sims, "he seems a queer lot. Keeps on complaining about weeds. They've ruined him, he says."

"Weeds? What rot! Nothing to do with us!" said the manager.

"Well, he says they've seeded and blown all over his land from that neighbouring bit—that odd corner, sir, you know—the bit we let to a man called Cardman."

"I daresay that's right, sir," interposed the manager's clerk. "As I used to walk down the road some time ago, the air, I noticed, was thick with thistledown blowing across."

"He must pay his rent," affirmed the manager.

Still Mr. Dearth went his own way, and no rent was paid. A letter came from a solicitor, who said that Mr. Dearth had instructed

him to claim £300 in respect of damage from weeds. This letter would receive attention, the manager replied.

Sims was sent to see Cardman and found him bedridden, anxious to give up his land. "Very well," said the manager. "We'll take possession and go to the trouble of cutting the weeds."

He wrote to the solicitor that the claim, if any, appeared to be against Mr. Cardman. "Can't see him getting £300 out of him," he laughed.

The weeds were cut. Still Dearth paid no rent. Time passed. The manager wrote letters to Dearth and reports to his board of directors. The legal department was instructed, fresh files were begun, men ran to and fro; Dearth went on doggedly growing cabbages. The manager's clerk said to Sims it was a shame. "But what can he expect?" argued Sims. "He won't budge from £300 and that's absurd, you know as well as I do. From what I hear, some local smart guy has kidded the old boy that he must ask for £300. And old Dearth's one of that sort that once they get a notion in their noddles, it sticks."

At last a letter came from Dearth:

"I has a letter from your solicitor," it ran, "who says he will claim posession of my land. Why don't he paye me my 300 pd. for them wedes, I want to ask. Not

scrutable marks upon affidavits and forms D.3B., and the slow course of the law was drawing towards a close when Dearth suddenly appeared at the office and asked to see the manager.

"All right, I'll see him," said the latter, as if he were doing something noble. "Show him in."

Dearth entered. He wore no collar. He was middle-aged, slight, with a forward bearing of the head and a look of mingled dullness, misery and obsession in his grey, dirty face. The manager was big and bluff, but something in the glare of the other's eyes made him feel uneasy. He rang for his clerk and kept him standing near. "Well, Mr. Dearth, I hope you've come to pay that rent and be sensible," he began loudly.

"I ain't gonna pay no rent," muttered Dearth. "I wanter know what you gonna do about my land."

"It's no good taking this attitude. That's not the way to treat a grievance if you think you've got one. Are you still thinking about that preposterous claim?"

"I did 'ave a claim," was the reply, in a tone that spoke infinite reproach and disillusion.

"Then you'd better ask your solicitor to see me."

"I ain't got no solicitor."

"But I thought you had been to a solicitor?"

"I did go to a solicitor, but 'e was no good to me. 'E won't do

Short Story

By "Goth"

him or annybody will get me out of my land. Yrs trully J. Dearth."

The manager wavered before this sublime firmness. He needs must ask the legal department to reassure him that Dearth was wrong. It did so, and he rallied. To think that one serf should dare defy the King's law, the great Dessner Company and all its men! Why, soon they would have everybody withholding rent on some pretext or other.

A writ was issued and a writ-server gave it to Dearth on his land as he bent over a spade rubbing it clean with a piece of wood. "I don't want it," Dearth muttered and dropped the writ in the mud. The writ-server picked it up, thrust it on the other's collar and walked away. "I aint takin' it," was shouted after him. "For a minute I thought he was going to hit me with the spade," the writ-server was heard to say. The word went round that Dearth was dangerous.

Undaunted however the company carried on. The papers in Dessner, Limited, versus James Dearth accumulated and lay in little bundles, folded tied with red tape, in the archives of the company and the King's judicature. Grave and learned Masters of the High Court of Justice made in-

nothin' for me. I bin to four serlicters; but they're all in league wiv one another and this 'ere company an' all. They're all against me—Swine!"

"Then I can do nothing for you; I've done my best. You'll have to quit, that's all."

"D'you think you'll get me out of my land?" Dearth had worked himself up. He now rose and walked about, and once right round the manager's desk. "That legal paper he give me—I never 'ad it. I never took it up." Here he picked up a ruler from the desk, held it vaguely and put it down. The manager rolled his eyes round to see that his precious clerk was near.

"That's all I've got to say to you," he managed to blurt. Dearth looked from one to the other and shuffled to the door. "Swine!" he growled, and went out.

The manager breathed freely. He mopped his bald forehead and looked piteous.

"What am I to do with that obstinate devil?" You see what he's like. What am I to do?"

His senior's manager so surprised him that all the clerk could do was to murmur with sympathy: "He won't pay his rent so he'll just have to go. I've done my best for him. God knows what he'll do when he's turned out. No-

body'll have him. Then, if they find him in the canal one day they'll say it's my fault. I'm worried." And looking woe-begone, the manager went to lunch, muttering, "I'm not paid properly for such responsibility."

THE law was to say its last when the Sheriffs met Sims in the road by the land on a cold and dismal morning. Small as it was, the field happened to be in three counties, for the borders met in the middle of it. So there were there different Sheriffs' agents, and each had a separate paper in his hand. They were short and massive and stolid of demeanour. Sims led them to the land and they followed through the gate in bovine obedience.

All stood in the middle of the field and looked round. Sims, his collar turned up about his ears, stamped his feet with cold and anxiety. He wondered when Dearth would appear and what he would do. He did not fancy this job at all. He perceived it was not only the weeds, but the long, hopeless struggle, that had given the poor devil his desperate, haunted look.

The cabbages, stunted, smoke-sullied, plainly fought a losing battle here. The ground was slimy and strewn in places with old tins, rusted fragments of pram-wheels and bedsteads. In a far corner was a shack, and by it stood a cart with splayed-out wheels. Beyond the fence loomed large red gasometers, the tops of some cranes and the chimneys of the chemical works, the acrid smoke from which drifted slowly across. He felt depressed.

"Well, can't we get on with it?" he said, brusquely.

"Is the tenant here?" asked a sheriff.

"Can't see him nowhere," replied Sims.

They walked across the field and stood near a corner of it. One of the sheriffs took off his bowler hat and declaimed: "In the name of the sheriff—here the voice became a mumble which Sims could scarcely follow—"do take possession and give and deliver . . . all that land measuring two acres and three rods or thereabouts . . . the part for the whole." He bent down grasped a little earth and solemnly handed it to Sims, whose fingers fastened on a pebble and retained it while they dropped the rest. For some reason he rubbed the stone clean and slipped it into his pocket.

Then they all crossed the border, and the second sheriff was just beginning the incantation when Dearth and his two sons were seen coming down the path.

All stopped. There was a pause. Dearth came forward.

"Wot yer want?"

Sims cleared his throat and explained. "I'm from the Dessner Company. These gentlemen are sheriffs."

"If there's any paper for me, you can write to my 'ouse," said Dearth.

Sims went on—"They've just given me—the Company—possession of this land. You—er—you are not allowed on here after this."

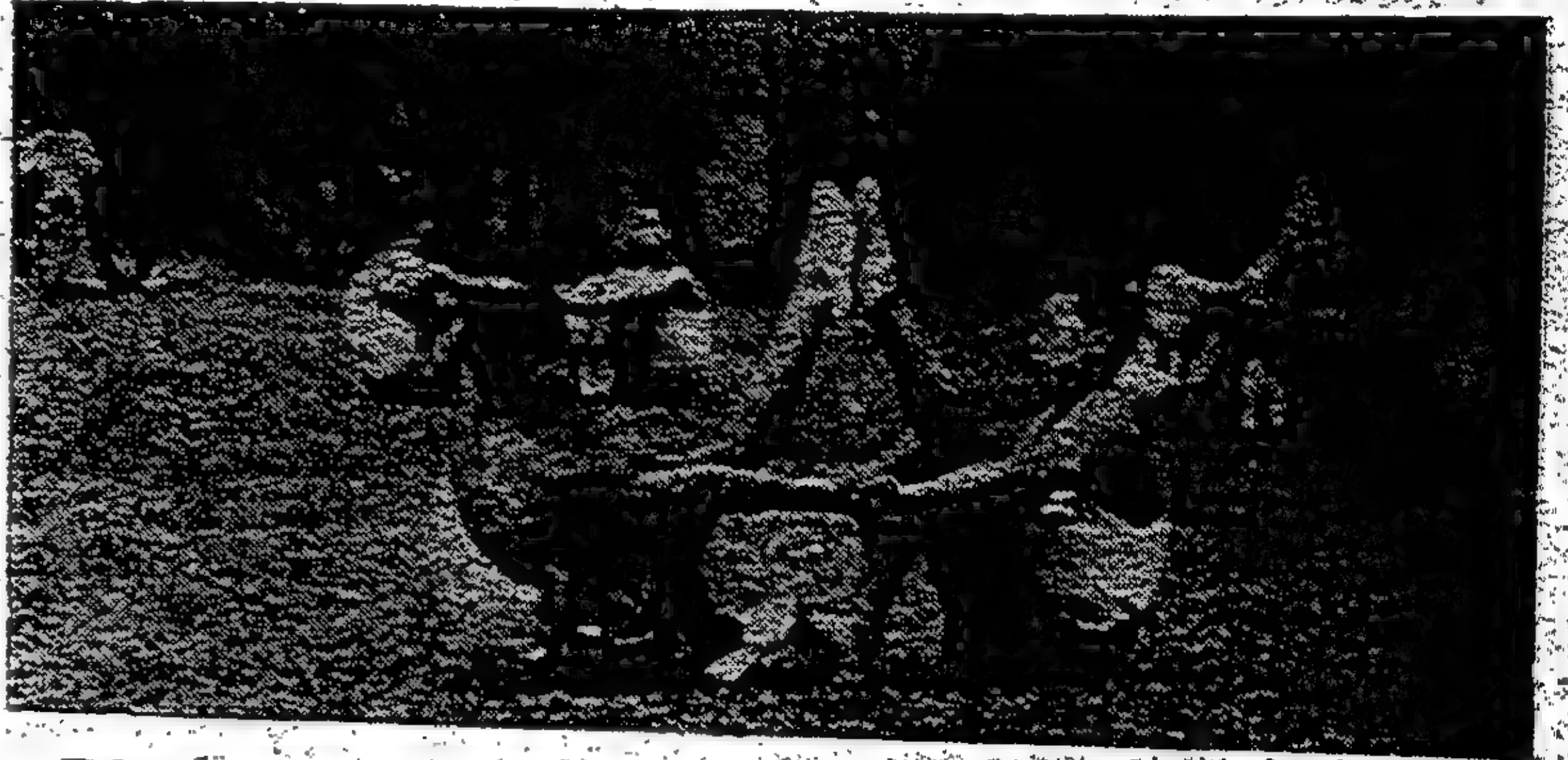
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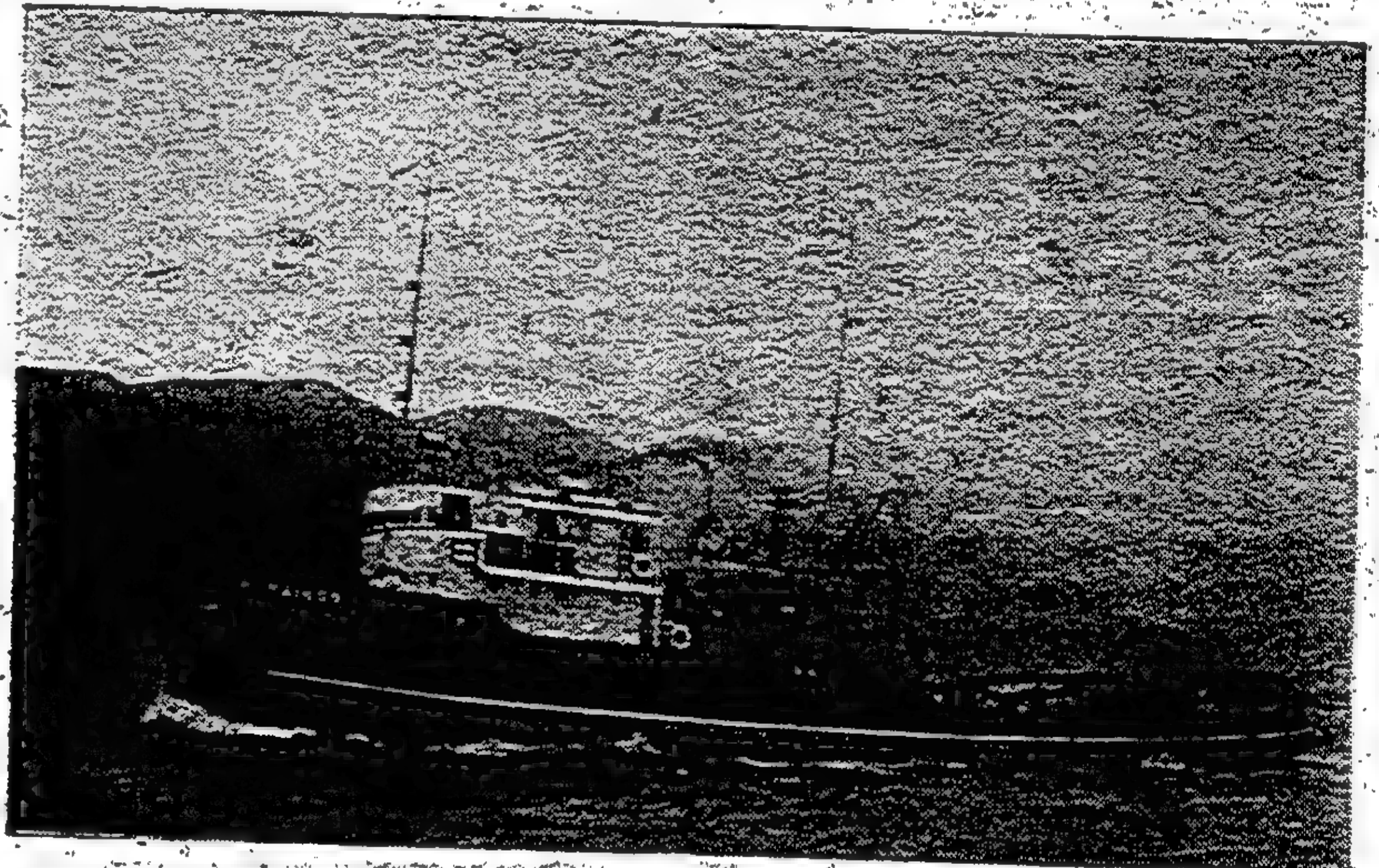
Photo taken at the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Y.M.C.A., Kowloon (Ming Yuen).



Choir boys ascending the steps of the new St. Mary's Church, in Happy Valley, when the structure was dedicated ("Mail" photo).



Taken at the physical culture display by the vernacular schools at the K.F.C. ("Mail" photo).



The Taikoo Dockyard and Engineering Company's new salvage vessel "Taikoo" on her trials.



The display of physical culture by Chinese schoolchildren at the K.F.C. ("Mail" photo).

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The Christmas Party given by the Salvation Army to poor Chinese children. In the back row are Adjutant Dorothy Brazier and Adjutant Doris Lemmon. ("Mail" photo).

CABBAGES AND KINGS

"I HEARD you fell down stairs this morning. How did that happen?"

"I started to go down, and my wife said, 'Be careful, John.' I'm not the man to be dictated to by any woman, and so down I went."

Solved

Mussolini says that Italy doesn't own the submarine which attacked H.M.S. Basilisk recently; neither Hitler nor Franco knows anything about it. So it must just have escaped from the children's pool at Sea Point.

Moments Among The Nobility

"D'you have a devil of a time keeping the wolf from the door?"
"No; I leave that kind of thing to my butler."

By Way Of Explanation

A small quantity of powder caused a terrific explosion in a home the other evening.

The husband returned home with it on his shoulder.

Last Word

"Married couples should also be of the same mind," says a clergyman.

They usually are. Hers.

Making Sure

An Indian woman has given birth to six children at once. This result, however, is only tentative, as she is demanding a recount.

NOTHING NEW



A journalist says that a game bearing some resemblance to golf was played in Greece hundreds of years ago. And now it is being played in South Africa.

Obituary

He flew through the air with the greatest of ease. But, sad to relate, he forgot his trapeze.

Comprehensive

An encyclopaedia will tell you everything that you ought to know. Or, you can get married and your wife will tell you all that—and a lot more besides.

Very Careless

"Tourist Trips Over Mountain," runs a headline. He must have thought it was a molehill.

"Yes," remarked the hopeless golfer, "this is my favourite course. I did a hole in one here."

"In one day, sir?"

Now We Know

The new resident was visited by the local cricket captain, who asked if he would join the club.

"Well, I'm afraid I don't know enough about the game to play, my dear fellow, but I'm quite willing to umpire."

Appropriate Names

"Just Pups," by K. F. Barker (author of "Just Dogs").

Not So Simple

A doctor says it is harmful to smoke one cigarette on top of another.

And also very difficult to balance.

No Cure

Frequent water-drinking, I read, prevents you from becoming stiff in the joints. The trouble is most joints don't serve water.

Pelmanism

"Did we go to Rome Sadie?" an American woman asked her daughter, when they got back from their Italian travels.

"Sure we did, Momma; don't you remember? That was where we got those open-work black silk stockings!"

Cheated

Tourist (in Irish village): "I hear you're ninety-four next week."

Pat: "Oi am, sorr. An' if it hadn't a' been for this puttin' back o' the clock o'd be a hundred an' three aisy."

Without Comment

"Are you off to — again this spring?"

"Good gracious no, my dear. Nobody ever goes there now. It's far too crowded."

Sherlock

"And when the barometer falls, what does that tell us?"

Come, Tommy, surely you know?"

"Nail's come out of the wall, Miss."

It's becoming quite a problem among some of our more prominent loafers these days to make both week-ends meet.



Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret recently were the recipients of little Welsh dolls, the gift of the children of Caernarvon. The presentation was made by Mr. Lloyd George. The dolls have been dressed by Miss Marian Williams, and no detail of the traditional Welsh costume has been overlooked. Photo shows Miss Marian Williams, wearing Welsh costume, with the dolls she has dressed for presentation to the Princesses. (Fox-Copyright).

Gentle Persuasion

Magistrate: "You say the two men were fighting with chairs. Didn't you try to restore peace?"

Native witness: "Nie, baas; there wasn't another chair."

One-Way Traffic

"That's a nice collection of books you've got! But you ought to have them up on shelves."

"I know; but nobody seems to lend shelves."

Half-Minutes in Hollywood

"Oh, no, dear. I think my 1932 wedding was quite the nicest I've ever had."

Upside Down

I read of a man who can sleep standing on his head. He probably doesn't want to be any different from the rest of the world just now.

Definition

Dramatic critic—a man who gives his best jeers to the theatre.

Back to Earth

"Whenever I look at you, Maggie, I think of Ginger Rogers."

"Do you, Dai?"

"Ay. But it's no use—a chap like me 'as to be content."

"Ceiling Falls on Comedian"

For once in his life he brought down the house.

Fashion Note



"This style of hat makes the face look round," says a millinery article.

What a girl wants is a hat that makes the men look round.



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BIRMING-
HAM (2)
Blackpool (-)
BRENT-
FORD (2)
DERBY (-)
Grimsby (6)
Leeds (2)
Liverpool (1)
MANCHES-
TER C. (4)
Middlesbro' (5)
W. Brom' (3)

SECON
BARNSELEY (2)
BLACK-
BURN (2)
BURY (3)
COVENTRY (1)
Fulham (2)
LUTON (-)
NEWCAS-
TLE (-)
Notts F. (1)
WEDNES-
DAY (-)
SOUTHAMP-
TON (3)
West Ham. (2)

THIRD DIV
Aldershot (2)
BOURNE-
MOUTH (1)
BRIGHTON (4)
Bristol R. (0)
CARDIFF (2)
Exeter (3)
GILLING-
HAM (5)

DUCAT'S FOOTBALL FORECAST

EXCLUSIVE CABLE FROM LONDON

Ducat, who cables his week-end soccer exclusively to the "China Mail," played against Scotland (twice), Wales and Ireland (twice) during his 11-year Arsenal and Aston Villa.

Will be found Ducat's selections, based on knowledge of the conditions likely to affect the number of injuries and changes that may make or mar a team.

Teams in capital letters are favoured to win. A draw is indicated by the use of the same letter.

DIVISION

Everton (2)
Stoke (4)
Huddersfield (-)
Bolton (2)
Leicester (-)
PRESTON (4)
Charlton (0)
CHELSEA (1)

Wolves (1)
Sunderland (5)
Portsmouth (1)

DIVISION

Bradford (1)
Swansea (1)
Burnley (1)
Tottenham (0)
Plymouth (2)
Stockport (-)
Manchester U. (-)
SHEFF.
FIELD U. (1)
Chesterfield (-)
Norwich (1)
ASTON-
VILLA (1)

ON (SOUTH)

Crystal P. (2)
Southend (0)
Queen's Park (1)
WATFORD (1)
Clapton (1)
Newport (1)
Bristol C. (3)



Millwall (0) v Reading (2)
NORTHAMP-
TON (-) v Mansfield (-)
Swindon (2) v Notts C. (2)
WALSALL (1) v Torquay (0)

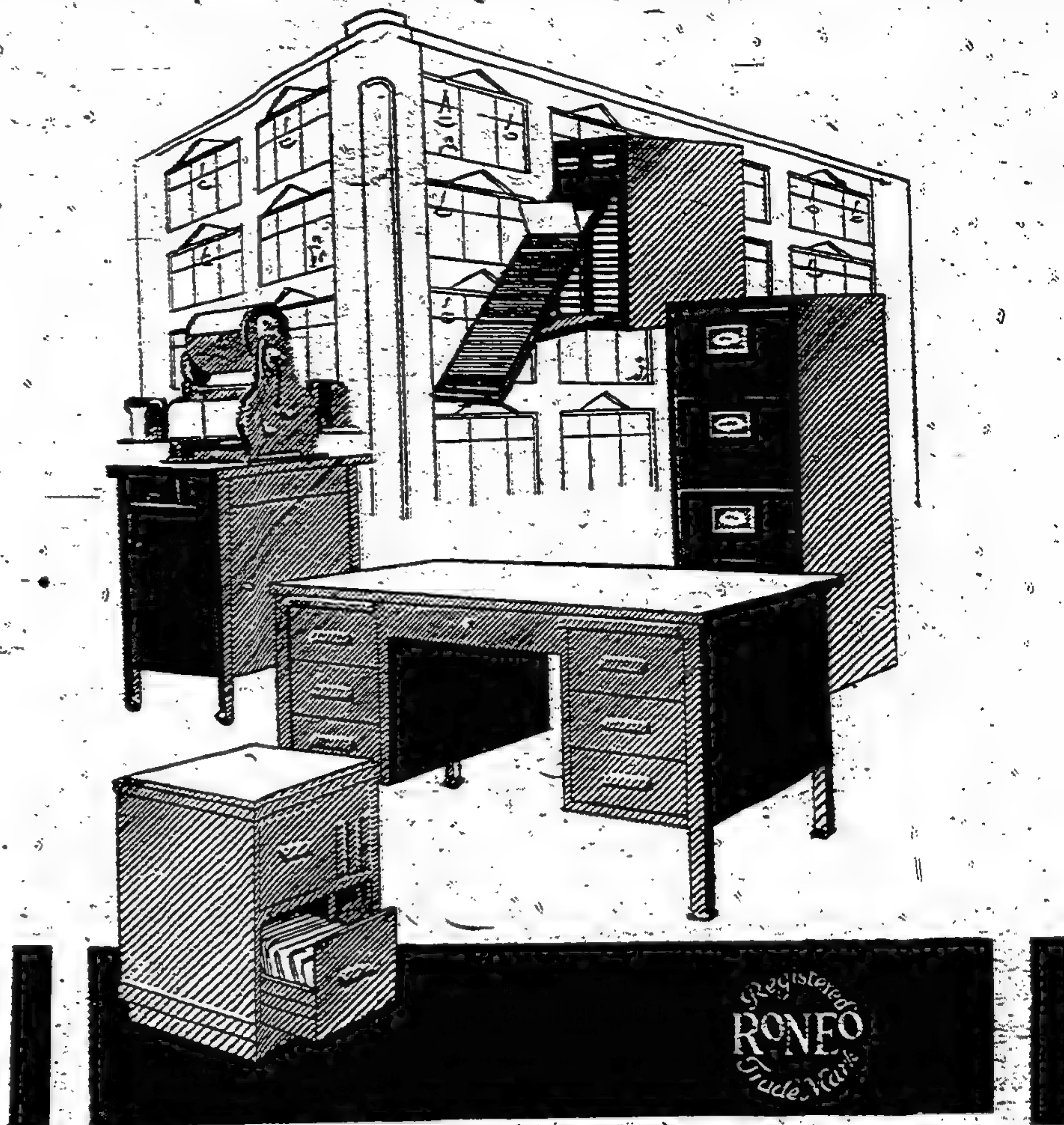
THIRD DIVISION (NORTH)

Barrow (2) v New Brighton (1)
BRADFORD (-) v Doncaster (-)
CARLISLE (2) v Accrington (0)
CREWE (3) v Gateshead (1)
HALIFAX (1) v Chester (0)
Hartlepool (3) v LINCOLN (1)
PORT VALE (1) v Oldham (0)
SOUTH-
PORT (0) v Darlington (0)
TRAN-
MERE (1) v Rotherham (2)
Wrexham (2) v HULL (1)
YORK (4) v Rochdale (1)

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

Ayr (-) v Queen of S. (-)
Celtic (1) v Rangers (1)
DUNDEE (2) v Aberdeen (2)
FALKIRK (-) v Morton (-)
Hibernian (3) v HEARTS (3)
MOTHER-
WELL (5) v Hamilton (2)
PARTICK (6) v Clyde (0)
Queen Park v T. LANARK
ST. JOHN-
STONE v Arbroath
St. Mirren v Kilmarnock

RONEO EQUIPMENT



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So That Is How Signal Hill Got
Its Name And Its Slopes Are
Covered With Daisies Once A Year

Elfin Seeds

LONG, long ago beautiful flowers of all shades of mauve, scarlet, yellow, orange and blue grew on the slopes of Signal Hill, and the hillside fairies who attended to them were happy until the Dragon came. Little Day's Eye, the smallest fairy, saw him first.

"Quick!" she cried, "the Dragon has come. He's over there," and she pointed to a spot where he had settled himself comfortably on the grass. Without losing any time the hillside fairies fled to a secret cave where they could hide until their enemy had gone. They had heard so much about him and feared him so.

"Gracious!" exclaimed the Dragon when he found the hillside deserted. "No one here. Humph!" He walked about looking for something to eat but all that he found were some sour figs. As he nibbled them a startled rabbit jumped out of a bush and stared at him for a second, then with a swish of his short furry tail fled down a burrow.

ACROSS THE SEA

After a while the Dragon felt very lonely and looked across the sea at the Island some miles away.

"The Island Elves aren't afraid of me," he muttered; "I wouldn't hurt a fly. Yet those fairies are frightened just because I'm big and not very handsome." A large tear slowly trickled down his ugly face, and with a sigh he turned over and fell asleep. His snores

sounded like guns to the Elves on the Island.

"Wonder what's wrong over there," they said, peering at the hillside through elfin spy-glasses. "No flowers about and they used to be so lovely. If only we had some of their rabbits." You see, the Elves found it difficult to get about the Island quickly and rabbits would make wonderful steeds.

MISSED THE SUNSHINE

Away back in the cave the fairies were missing the warm sunshine and their beautiful flowers. Especially Little Day's Eye. The others had named her that because she gazed at the sun so often, sometimes forgetting her work. Then one morning the Fairy Queen arrived.

"I am ashamed of your ugly hillside," she said sternly, "all the flowers are dead."

"But, your Majesty," wept the hillside fairies, "if we were to go outside to attend to them the Dragon would destroy us."

"Nonsense!" replied the Fairy Queen. "Pray, what harm has he ever done? believe me, your hillside is far uglier than any dragon who cannot help his looks. Listen! Unless there are flowers here within a month I will never visit you again. They will be your signal for me to come."

"We have no seeds," cried the hillside fairies, "even if the Dragon went away," and they peeped at him through a crack in the door of the cave.



"Please, won't you go?" cried
Day's Eye

Legend by
Dorothy Dury

EXCHANGE FOR RABBITS

"The Island Elves have plenty and will exchange them for rabbits which they badly want," said the Fairy Queen before she vanished. Of course the hillside fairies were very unhappy. None of them could fly all the way to the Island without resting. If salt water touched a fairy it meant death. They peeped again at the Dragon resting so comfortably on the slopes of the Hill. Perhaps if he went away a big bird might take one of them to the Island.

They thought of all kinds of plans but no one was brave enough to put a foot outside the cave. At last little Day's Eye said bravely:

"I will go; the Fairy Queen told us that the Dragon is harmless."

So she put on her daintiest gown of white and gold and timidly crept out of the dark cave into the golden sunshine that she loved so dearly.

"Hullo!" chuckled the Dragon when he saw her, "so at last you are brave enough to meet me."

"Please! Please!" cried Day's Eye, "won't you go? All the flowers are dead, and—and we may never see our dear Fairy Queen again. No birds will come here until you are gone, and we must get some seeds from the Island Elves in exchange for rabbits."

"Well, well," muttered the Dragon kindly, "perhaps I may be able to help you. What about going with me to the Island? My back is broad. In these parts I don't think there are any birds big enough to carry rabbits."

"Oh! No! No! I couldn't do that," cried Day's Eye miserably.

"Think it over," said the Dragon, "you must decide quickly, as I will soon be leaving to visit the Island Elves, who are expecting me."

BRAVELY WAVED HER WAND

Day's Eye sat quiet for a few minutes, then she bravely waved her wand and in a moment two small brown rabbits hopped out of the long grass into her lap. A few minutes later the hillside fairies were astonished to see her step on the Dragon's back carrying two rabbits.

Then the hillside fairies ran

out of the cave and sadly looked at the bare ugly hillside. Every day they gazed across at the Island wondering if the Dragon would return and what had become of little Day's Eye. One moonlight night a few days later when they were all asleep he brought her back.

"Good-bye, dear, dear Dragon," she said, "and thank you so much for being so kind."

"Farewell, little fairy, try to remember that bigness and ugliness are not always to be feared," and he disappeared in a cloud of mist. Day's Eye ran to the sleeping fairies.

"Wake up," she cried, "I've come back. The Dragon was so kind and he's gone. Here are the seeds."

Joyfully the fairies divided them and eagerly set to work, digging, planting and watering. There was little time to lose if they were to see their lovely Fairy Queen again. Soon small green plants appeared and great was the excitement of the hillside fairies. Clapping hands they danced about singing:

"We shall have flowers of every hue,
Scarlet and mauve, orange and blue,
The brightest flowers ever seen
To welcome back our Fairy Queen."

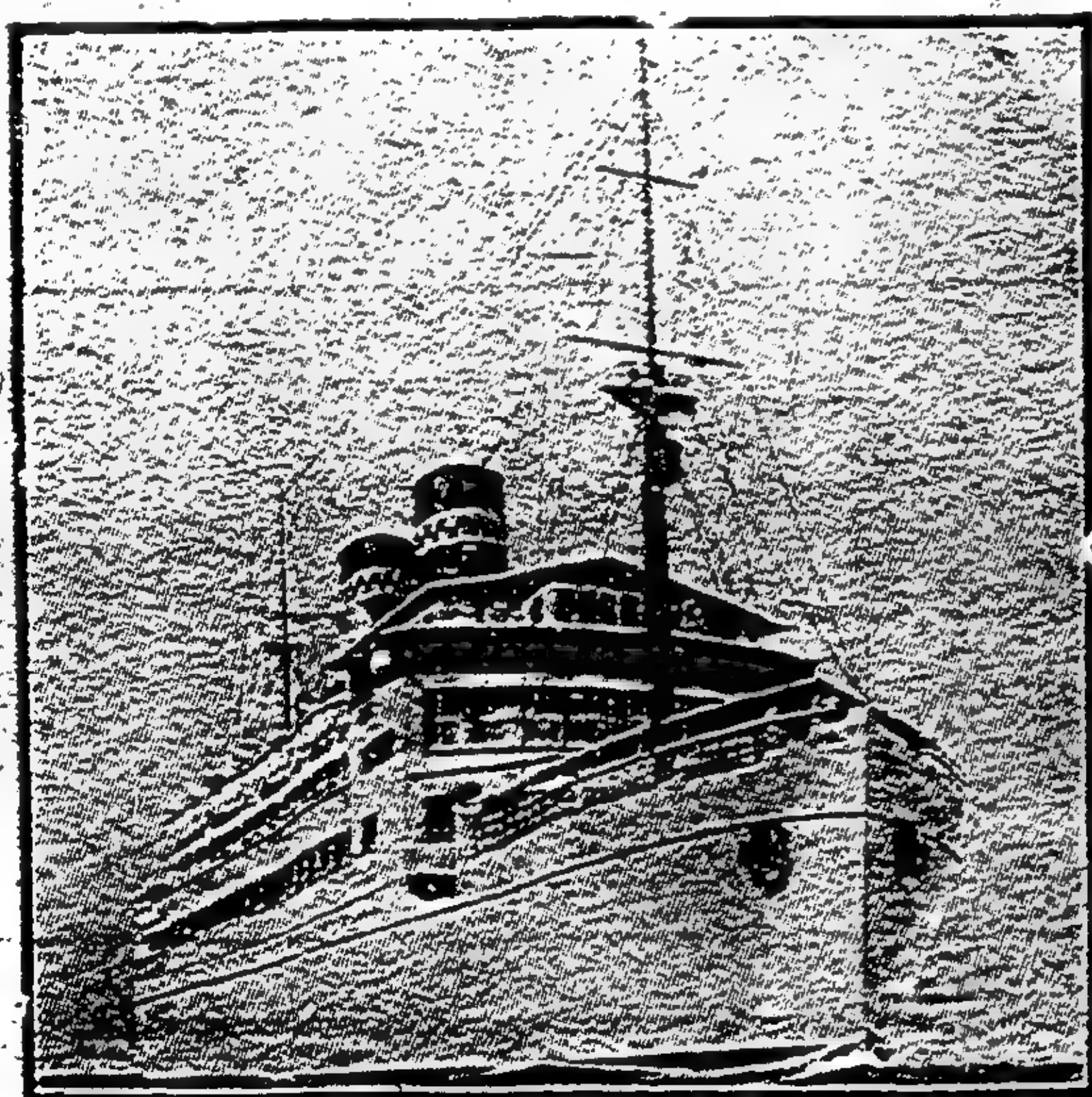
Then one morning the elfin buds burst open just as the sun rose.

"Those aren't our flowers," cried the hillside fairies crossly when they saw patches of white and gold daisies spread over the grass, "ours were beautiful."

"Those are little Day's Eye flowers in memory of her bravery," replied the silver sweet voice of the Fairy Queen, "and they are very, very beautiful if you look at them closely. Daisies will be your signal for me to visit you once a year."

So that is how Signal Hill got its name and why its slopes are almost covered with white and gold daisies once a year instead of with flowers of mauve, scarlet, yellow or blue. And to-day, if you happen to visit the hill on a moonlight night, if you look very carefully, you may see rabbits scampering about with elfin riders on their backs.

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DISPOSSESSED

(Continued from Page 1)

"Oh, ain't I?"

"It's the law. I'm sorry, but it's the law." He turned to the sheriffs. "Tell him, will you?"

"You James Dearth?" asked one of them. A nod. "Well, legal possession has been given to this representative of Dessner, Ltd."

"I ain't goin'."

Sims was hot with bewilderment. "What happens now?" he asked the sheriffs. "Can't you get him out of here?"

"No, we've no power to touch 'im. We give possession, then you can do what you like."

"But what am I to do?"

"He's a trespasser now and if he won't go, you can always call the police."

Sims explained this to Dearth.

"What about my 'orse an' cart an' all?"

"What horse?"

"Over there, behind me shed, is me 'orse." James Dearth walked to the shack and beckoned his sons. They began to do things to the horse and cart as if the others were not there. The horse, too, was well worn and must have been grateful for the staying of the shafts.

"What a job, what a job!" thought Sims. He whispered with the sheriffs and called out, "You must take those away."

"I ain't goin'."

"You can turn those out on the street" (from a sheriff). "What a horse? Adrift?"

"Or you can take them."

"You hear that?" called out Sims.

"Take me 'orse an' cart, then! Take me coat off me back an' all!" And he pulled off his coat, flung it on the ground, and squared his fists to the air. He seized a spade and flourished it as if to smash all about him; but he only knocked the head off a cabbage and then went rigid, his sturdy legs wide apart, his body tapering to the narrow hunched shoulders, as if he would never be uprooted from this soil.

"I've had enough of this," muttered Sims. "Police." And, sweating profusely, he ran out and down the road. Soon he was seen returning with a towering constable, who leisurely pushed a bicycle. The sheriffs, drawn apart, were smoking pipes and muttering together.

"These are the bailiffs," said Sims, with all the breath that was still in him. "They can tell you it's all proper and legal." The constable looked at their papers as if he understood them; then he approached Dearth.

"Put that spade down," he said casually.

"I ain't goin'. I ain't goin'. It's all a plot behind me back. You can lock me up. I ain't goin'."

The constable was unmoved. He was easy and paternal, as if obsessed, excited men were no trouble at all. "Now, look 'ere, lad, die. Ye're in the wrong, and ye know it. The law's on these folks' side. Ye'll ave to come along t'station if ye don't go quiet."

Dearth paced about and rambled incoherently. He cursed weeds, solicitors, landlords, together. He would go to the station; he would bring his bed down to the shed and sleep there; he would wear a placard of his wrongs in the High-streets; he would not go.

"It won't elp ee what ye do."



Taken at the Sailors and Soldiers Home in Wanchai on Christmas Night when the boys of H.M. ships in Hong Kong were entertained to dinner. ("Mail" photo).

Be sensible chap, now, and go quiet."

"What a day!" thought Sims. The sweat he had exuded was drying on him cold. A fine drizzle of rain began.

The two sons of Dearth had been silent up to here. Now the taller spoke. "Come on, dad, it ain't no good." Dearth was growing calmer. He seemed suddenly tired. "They're all agin me," he said, in a graveyard tone. He turned towards the shed, finished harnessing the horse, and collected his tools and canvas bags.

"We'll be going now. You'll get the bill for sheriffs' fees tomorrow," said a sheriff's man to Sims. They walked away, without the third one having said his piece. Dearth led the horse and creaking cart to the gate, and the two sons followed, bearing the spades and the forks.

Like one in a dream Sims watched until their forms faded down the road in the murk and the rain. Then he himself strode off at a great pace to the nearest tavern and bought himself a stiff drink.

BEDTIME STORY

A man was brought before the magistrate for having slapped a woman in a bus.

"What on earth made you do that?" asked the magistrate.

"I couldn't help myself; I just had to," the man replied. "You see, this woman gets in the bus and sits opposite to me. She opens her bag, takes out her purse, closes her bag, opens her purse, takes out a penny, closes her purse, opens her bag, puts in her purse, closes her bag. Then she notices that the conductor has gone on top of the bus, so she opens her bag, takes out her purse, closes her bag, opens her purse, puts back the penny, closes her purse, opens her bag, puts back the purse and closes her bag."

"When the conductor comes down, she opens her bag, takes out her purse, closes her bag, opens her purse, takes out a penny, closes her purse, opens her bag, puts in her purse, closes her bag, and gives the penny to the

conductor. He gives her a ticket."

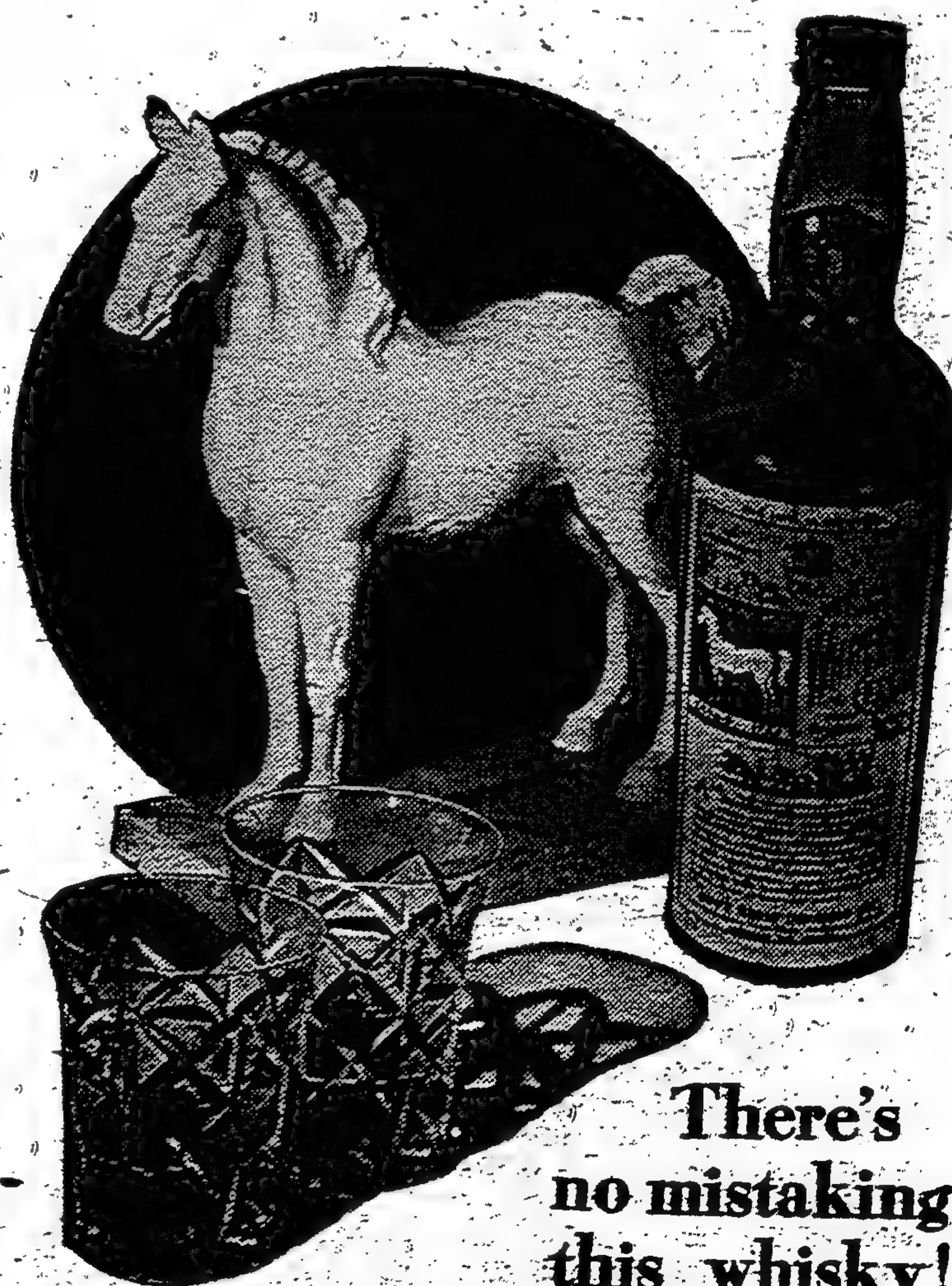
"She opens her bag, takes out her purse, closes her bag, opens her purse, puts in the ticket, closes her purse, opens her bag, puts in her purse, and closes her bag. Half a minute later a ticket-inspector jumps on the bus. So the woman opens her bag,

takes out her purse—"

"Stop!" broke in the magistrate. "I've heard enough of that. You're driving us all crazy."

"Yes," said the man, "that's exactly what happened to me: so I slapped her."

"You're discharged!" said the magistrate.



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WHITE HORSE WHISKY

BELGIUM'S SECRET NEWSPAPER

ONE of the most remarkable untold stories of the Great War has now been told in full by Oscar E. Millard in "Uncensored."

It is the story of "La Libre Belgique," the famous newspaper run in Brussels, in defiance of the enemy, during the German occupation. The group of Belgian patriots who carried out this secret enterprise did so at the risk of their lives. Several, indeed, faced the firing squad for their part in the daring work that infuriated and baffled the Germans right up to the end of the war.

Copies of "La Libre Belgique" were delivered to the Kaiser and placed regularly on the desk of the German Governor of Brussels. It was read throughout Belgium, and the advice it gave strengthened the Belgians in their passive resistance to the invaders. Mr. Millard has found a stirring subject in this clandestine newspaper. He gathered the story from the survivors themselves and he has presented the true narrative in a form that rivals spy fiction.

74-Year-Old Patriot

Among the conspirators was Victor Jourdain, a heavy man of 74, editor of the "Patriote," known to his political opponents as a bulldog. The Germans tried to persuade him to continue publication and fill his columns with subtle German propaganda. Jourdain refused.

Then there was Eugene van Doren, owner of a small cardboard factory, who plunged into the dangerous enterprise with enthusiasm; and the black-haired, fearless priest, the Abbe de Moor, who assisted French and English soldiers to escape and became an active member of the Nurse Cavell organisation.

A Vast Concentration Camp

The running of an illicit newspaper in occupied territory was difficult to the point of folly. The iron heel had descended on the Belgians, and the country had become a vast concentration camp under a tyrannical rule. Three special brigades of secret police had been organised. "Military necessity" was the only law recognised.

Under such conditions the newspaper was planned. A printer was found, and on February 1, 1915, the first issue appeared. The Kaiser's copy was posted to him, but a pretty Belgian girl delivered the paper to Governor von Bissing—with the aid of a sentry, and wrapped in a pink envelope like a love-letter. The girl did not wait for an answer.

All Knew About It

Within a month of the first appearance there was not a soul in Brussels who had not heard of the paper and seen at least one copy. The city was combed by the Germans. Raiding parties put every printing press they could find out of action. A few minor distributors were caught, but the headquarters of the "Libre Belgique" often moved, were

never located.

An Agent In Disguise

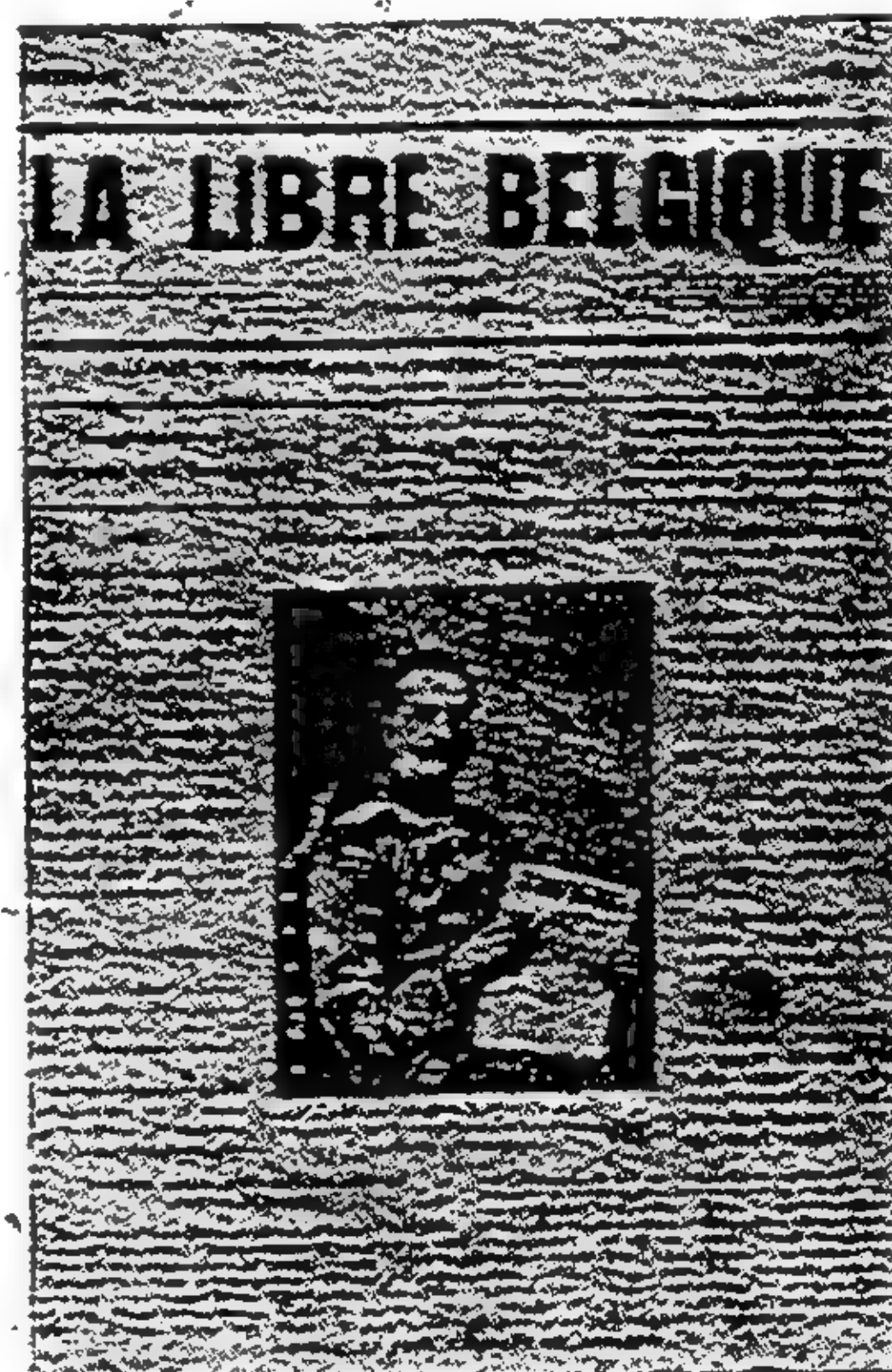
Once a German agent in disguise approached the Abbe de Moor, saying that he had a large sum of money to remit to the organisers of the secret newspaper. The Abbe was not deceived; he cleverly threw the agent off the scent and the work went on.

One of the distributors of the paper was Gabrielle Petit, just 21 at the outbreak of war, "but with her wild auburn locks and candid brown eyes she looked scarcely 17." She hid her fiancé, a wounded Belgian soldier, and tried to raise money to send him out of the country by selling contraband newspapers. The Germans caught her at last, and she was shot.

Secret Chamber Built

After a number of issues had been printed, Van Doren succeeded in smuggling a printing press into his cardboard factory. A secret chamber was built, with bricks brought in a few at a time in paper parcels. Just in time. No sooner had the press been installed than the former hiding

place was raided. Bancq (one of the conspirators) was arrested and sentenced to death. He gave nothing away.



Issue No. 52 appeared with a fine portrait of King Albert on the front page and the first instalment of the book, "J'Accuse," by an anonymous German, attacking Germany.

tacking Germany.

Burnt Under Soldier's Nose

During one of the periodical hold-ups, a courier with copies of the "Libre Belgique" was waiting his turn to be searched. A German soldier was trying to light a fire in a bucket. The courier stepped forward.

"What you want is some paper, my son," he remarked. And under the soldier's nose he burnt the banned newspapers.

On November 12, 1918, when the German troops in Brussels were in revolt and the haughty Prussian officers were tearing off their rank badges and scurrying like rats into hiding—on that day the last issue of "La Libre Belgique" appeared. 200,000 copies.

Long before that day the paper had made a bold promise to the King of the Belgians:

"Cost what it may, we solemnly swear it, Your Majesty will find acclaiming him on the day of his triumphal entry into his beloved capital a special edition of the 'Libre Belgique'."

"La Libre Belgique" had kept faith to the end.



Taken at Gripps on Christmas Eve. ("Mail" photo).



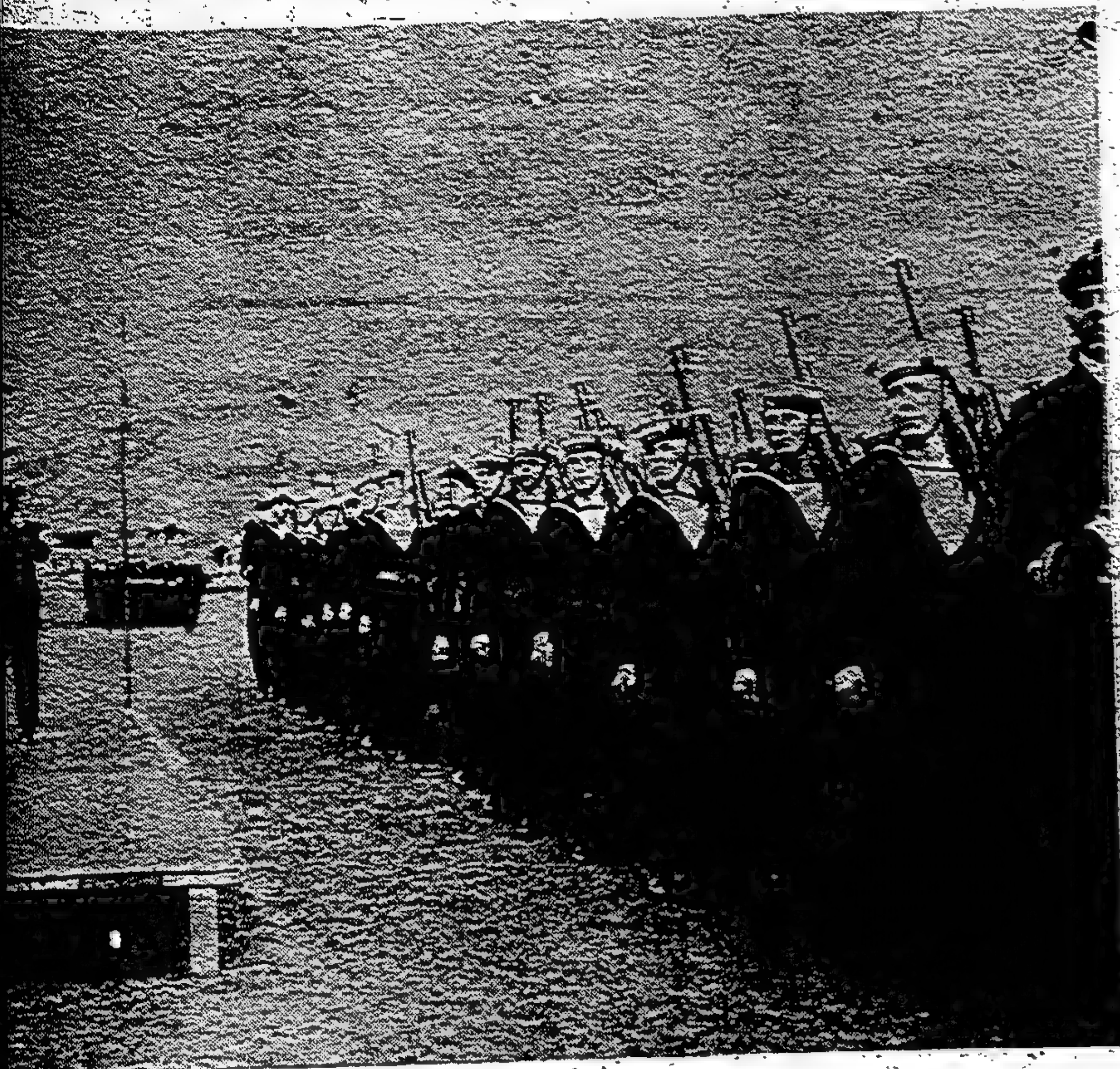
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NEW YEAR GREETINGS

1938

THE HONG KONG & SHANGHAI HOTELS, LTD.

SHANGHAI



taking the salute at yesterday's naval parade at Happy Valley. ("Mail" photo).

SCHOOL YEN HSI-SHAN'S REJECTION OF ULTIMATUM

To-day. health of chief Medical Education the examina- children, that been main- year. Over the subject British Wire-

Tientsin, 2 p.m., To-day. A Japanese military spokes- man announced this morning that there has still been no response to the Japanese ultimatum to Marshal Yen Hsi-shan, and that the Shansi warlord's rejection of the ultimatum can now be taken for granted.

Bearing out the spokesman's re-

marks, the Japanese high com- mand is massing thousands of troops of all arms in preparation for a drive against the Chinese positions in Shansi. — Our Own Correspondent.

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drab? dull?*

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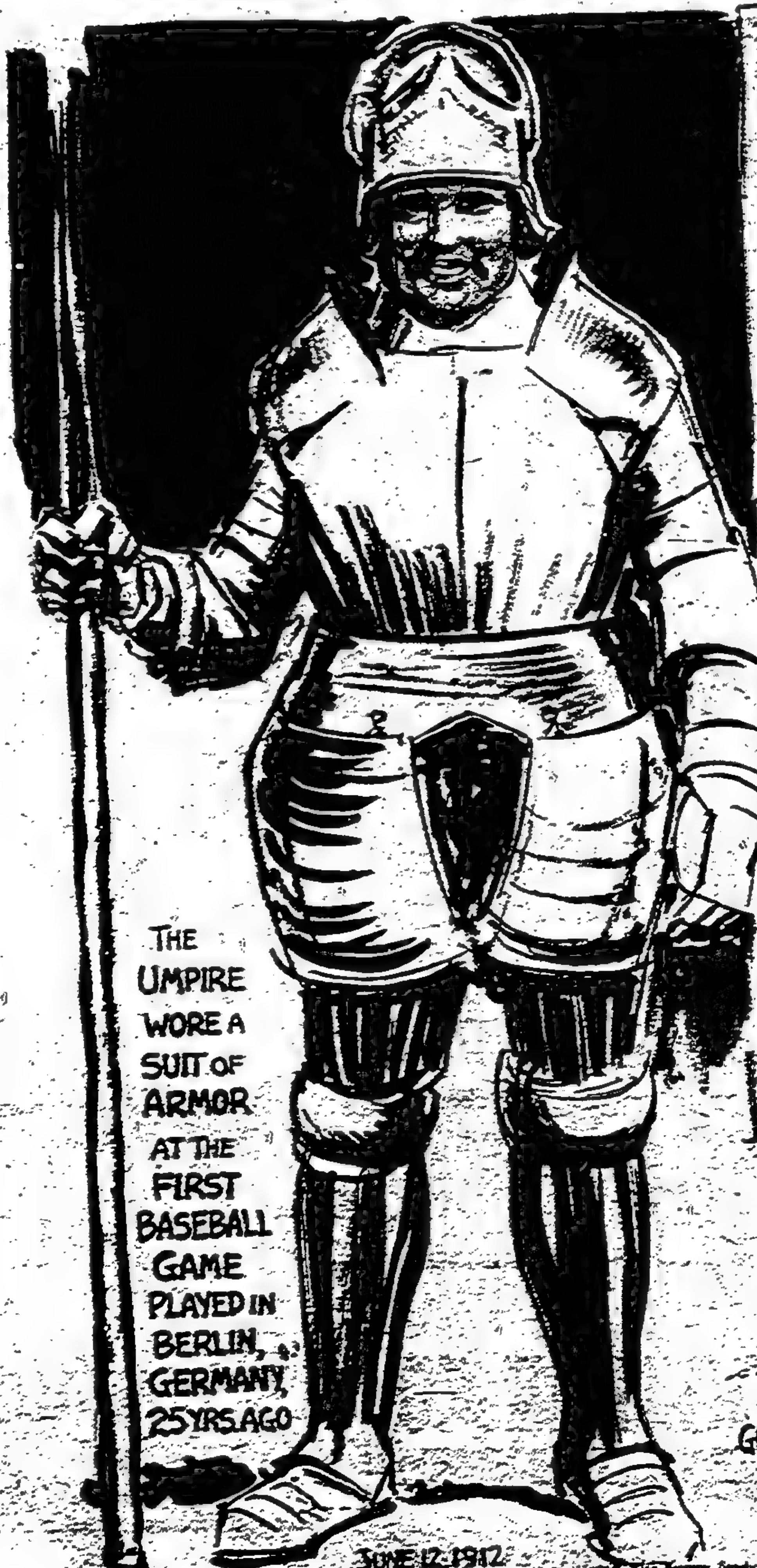
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"BELIEVE IT OR NOT" by Robert L. Ripley



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JUNE 12, 1912



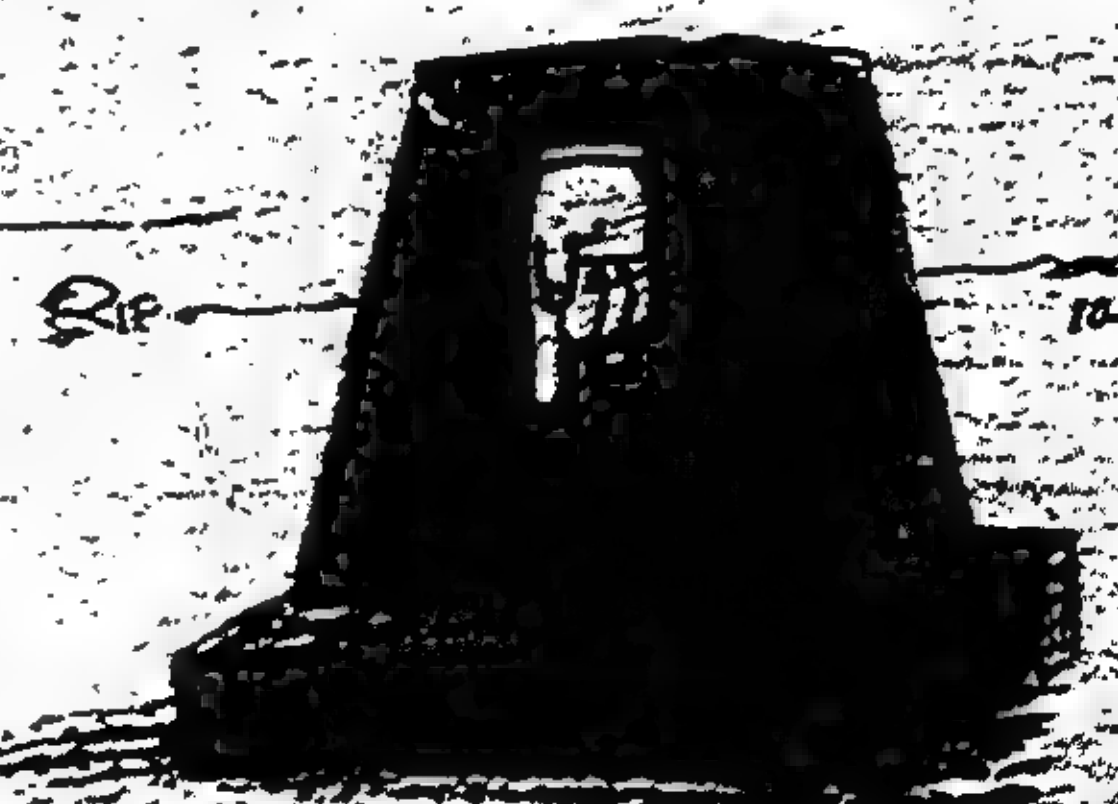
DE SOTO DISCOVERED HIS OWN GRAVE!

WHEN HE DIED HIS BODY WAS WEIGHTED DOWN WITH STONES AND BURIED IN THE MISSISSIPPI—THE RIVER HE DISCOVERED

Drawn and Submitted by ARNOLD SANDWICK
AGE 11—Sioux City, Iowa



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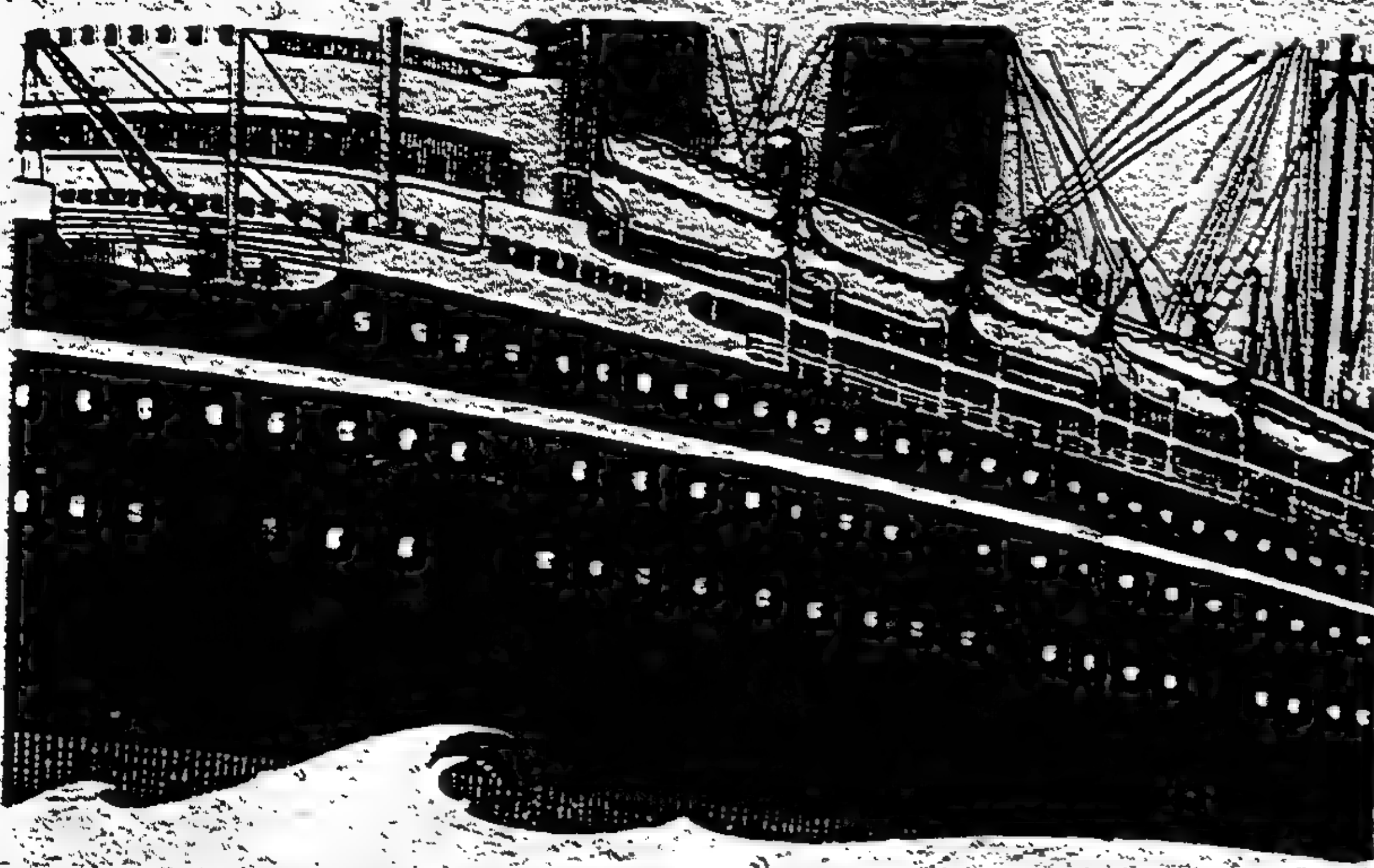


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*SOUDAN	7,000	1st Jan.	Bombay, Marseilles and London.
RAWALPINDI	17,000	8th Jan.	Bombay, Marseilles and London.
*KIDDERPORE	5,000	15th Jan.	Bombay, Karachi and Persian Gulf.
CORFU	14,500	22nd Jan.	Bombay, Marseilles and London.
*BURDWAN	6,000	29th Jan.	Bombay, Marseilles, Havre, London, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hull.
CHITRAL	15,000	5th Feb.	Marseilles and London.
CARTHAGE	14,500	19th Feb.	Marseilles and London.
*SOMALI	7,000	26th Feb.	Marseilles, Havre, London, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hull.
COMORIN	15,000	5th Mar.	Marseilles and London.
KAISAR-I-HIND	11,000	19th Mar.	Marseilles and London.
*BANGALORE	6,000	26th Mar.	Marseilles, Havre, London, Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp and Hull.
NALDERA	16,000	2nd Apr.	Marseilles and London.

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TALMA	10,000	1st Jan.	Singapore, Port Swettenham, Penang, Rangoon and Calcutta.
SIRDHANA	8,000	15th Jan.	
SHIRALA	8,000	29th Jan.	
TILAWA	10,000	12th Feb.	
SANTHA	8,000	26th Feb.	



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The P. & O. Royal Mail Steamers to London and
The New Zealand Shipping Co.'s Steamers for Southampton and London via Panama Canal.

EASTERN & AUSTRALIAN SAILINGS

NANKIN	7,000	1st Jan.	Manila, Rabaul, Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart.
NELLORE	7,000	29th Jan.	
TANDA	7,000	5th Mar.	

SAILINGS TO SHANGHAI and JAPAN

NELLORE	7,000	4th Jan.	Shanghai and Japan.
SHIRALA	8,000	6th Jan.	Amoy and Japan.
CHITRAL	15,000	7th Jan.	Shanghai and Japan.
TILAWA	10,000	20th Jan.	Amoy and Japan.
CARTHAGE	14,500	21st Jan.	Shanghai and Japan.
SANTHA	8,000	3rd Feb.	Amoy and Japan.

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POST OFFICE

New Year Holiday

On Saturday the 1st January 1938, the General Post Office and Kowloon Central Post Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. The Sheungwan Branch Post Office will be open from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and also from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and the other Branch Post Offices will be entirely closed. There will be one collection from the pillar boxes, one delivery of ordinary correspondence as on Sundays and one delivery of registered correspondence at 11 a.m.

The Money Order Office will be entirely closed.

POSTAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Public are reminded that the postage on Printed Papers, Commercial Papers, Samples and Small Packets must be fully prepaid. Insufficiently prepaid Printed Papers etc., are not forwarded.

VIA SIBERIA ROUTE

Letters, Postcards and Samples for Europe and South America are forwarded "via Siberia" if so superscribed.

INWARD MAILS

Swatow	Ninghai	December 31.
Shanghai and Swatow	Kwangtung	December 31.
U.S.A., Honolulu and Japan (San Francisco, 4th December, 1937)	Pres. Van Buren	December 31.
Shanghai	Conte Verde	December 31.
Australia and Manila	Nellore	January 1.
Shanghai and Foochow	Suiyang	January 1.
Haiphong, Pakhoi and Hoihow	Kiungchow	January 1.
Straits	Anhui	January 2.
Japan	Santos Maru	January 2.
Amoy	Tisaroos	January 2.
Straits, and London, Parcels—London date, 25th December, 1937	Antenor	January 2.
Straits and Europe via Negapatam (Letters and Papers) London date, 2nd December, 1937	Fushimi Maru	January 3.
Air Mail by "Imperial Airways Direct Service"—London date, 25th December, 1937	Imperial Airways Plane	January 3.
Swatow	Nanning	January 3.

OUTWARD MAILS

Registered and Parcel Mails are closed 15 minutes earlier than the time given below unless otherwise stated, and where mails are advertised to close at or before 9 a.m., registered and parcel mails are closed at 5 p.m. on the previous day.

For	Per	Date and Time
Samshui and Wuchow	Tai Hing	Fri, Dec. 31, 8.15 a.m.
Amoy (Foochow via Amoy)	Tisadane	Dec. 31, 5 p.m.
Air Mail for Sian, Lanchow and Eurasia Plane	Eurasia Plane	Fri, Dec. 31, 5 p.m.
Chengtu, etc. (via Hankow) by the "Eurasia Airways Service" (To further points by surface transport as Services permit)	G.P.O. and K.P.O.	Reg., Dec. 31, 9 a.m. Ord., Dec. 31, 9.30 a.m.
Kongmoon & Pakhoi (via Kongmoon)	On Lee	Dec. 31, 10 a.m.
Sandakan	Hinsang	Fri, Dec. 31, 12.30 p.m.
Japan, Canada, U.S.A., Central and South America and *Europe via Victoria B.C.—due Victoria B.C., 19th Jan.—and *Europe via Siberia	Pres. Grant	Fri, Dec. 31, 12.30 p.m.
	G.P.O. and K.P.O.	Parcels, Dec. 31, Noon. Reg., Dec. 31, 1.45 p.m. Ord., Dec. 31, 2.30 p.m.
Swatow	Seistan	Dec. 31, 3 p.m.
Manila	Pres. Coolidge	Dec. 31, 5 p.m.
Air Mail for "K.L.M. Airways Service"—due Amsterdam, 11th January, 1938	Soudan	Fri, Dec. 31, 5 p.m.
	G.P.O. and K.P.O.	Reg., Dec. 31, 4.30 p.m. Ord., Dec. 31, 5 p.m.
Straits, Ceylon, India, East & *South Africa, Aden, Egypt & Europe via Marseilles—due Marseilles, 1st February, 1938	South Soudan	Fri, Dec. 31, 5 p.m.
	G.P.O. and K.P.O.	Parcels, Dec. 31, 1 p.m. Reg., Dec. 31, 5 p.m. Ord., Dec. 31, 5.30 p.m.
Straits, Ceylon, India, East and *South Africa, Aden, Egypt and Europe via Marseilles—due Marseilles 29th January, 1938	Kashima Maru	Fri, Dec. 31, 5 p.m.
*Straits and Calcutta	Talms	Sat, Jan. 1, 5 p.m.
	G.P.O. and K.P.O.	Parcels, Dec. 31, 5 p.m. Ord., Jan. 1, 8.30 a.m.

*Superscribed correspondence only.

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(STARTS FROM KOBE)		
TAIYO MARU	Monday	10th Jan. (1938)
TATSUTA MARU	Tuesday	25th Jan. (1938)
CHICHIBU MARU	Monday	22nd Feb. (1938)

SEATTLE & VANCOUVER (starts from Kobe)

HEIAN MARU	Saturday	22nd Jan. (1938)
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NEW YORK via Panama

NOTO MARU	Friday	31st Dec. (1937)
NAKO MARU	Monday	24th Jan. (1938)

SOUTH AMERICA (West Coast) via Japan, Honolulu, Hilo, Los Angeles, Mexico and Panama.

RAKUYO MARU	Wednesday	12th Jan. (1938)
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LONDON, MARSEILLES, ANTWERP & ROTTERDAM

YASUKUNI MARU	Friday	14th Jan. (1938)
HAKONE MARU	Saturday	29th Jan. (1938)

LIVERPOOL via Port Said, Beyrouth, Istanbul, Piraeus, and Marseilles.

DURBAN MARU	Tuesday	11th Jan. (1938)
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SYDNEY & MELBOURNE via Manila & Ports

*m.v. NEPTUNA	Sunday	9th Jan. (1938)
KITANO MARU	Saturday	22nd Jan. (1938)
KAMO MARU	Friday	26th Feb. (1938)

BOMBAY

SHAKODATE MARU	Monday	10th Jan. (1938)
TOYOOKA MARU	Thursday	27th Jan. (1938)

CALCUTTA via Singapore, Penang & Rangoon

TOTTORI MARU	Wednesday	26th Jan. (1938)
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KOBE & YOKOHAMA (Omitting S'hai).

FUSHIMI MARU	Monday	3rd Jan. (1938)
HAKOZAKI MARU	Friday	14th Jan. (1938)
KAMO MARU	Friday	21st Jan. (1938)
TERUKUNI MARU	Monday	8th Feb. (1938)

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Hokkai Maru	Wed.	10th Feb.

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Santos Maru	Sun.	2nd Jan.
Rio de Janeiro Maru	Fri.	5th Feb.

MOBASA, ZANZIBAR, DARSSALAAM, BEIRA, LOURENCO MARQUES DURBAN, ALGOA BAY CAPE TOWN & SOUTH AMERICAN PORTS via Singapore & Colombo

Arizona Maru	Tues.	4th Jan. 1938
Araka Maru	Thurs.	4th Feb.

BOMBAY & KARACHI via Singapore, Penang and Colombo

London Maru	Thurs.	3rd Feb. 1938
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CALCUTTA via Singapore, Belawan Deli & Rangoon

Celebes Maru	Wed.	2nd Feb. 1938
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JAPAN via Takao and Keelung

JAPAN PORTS via Dairen

Manila Maru	Sun.	23rd Jan. 1938
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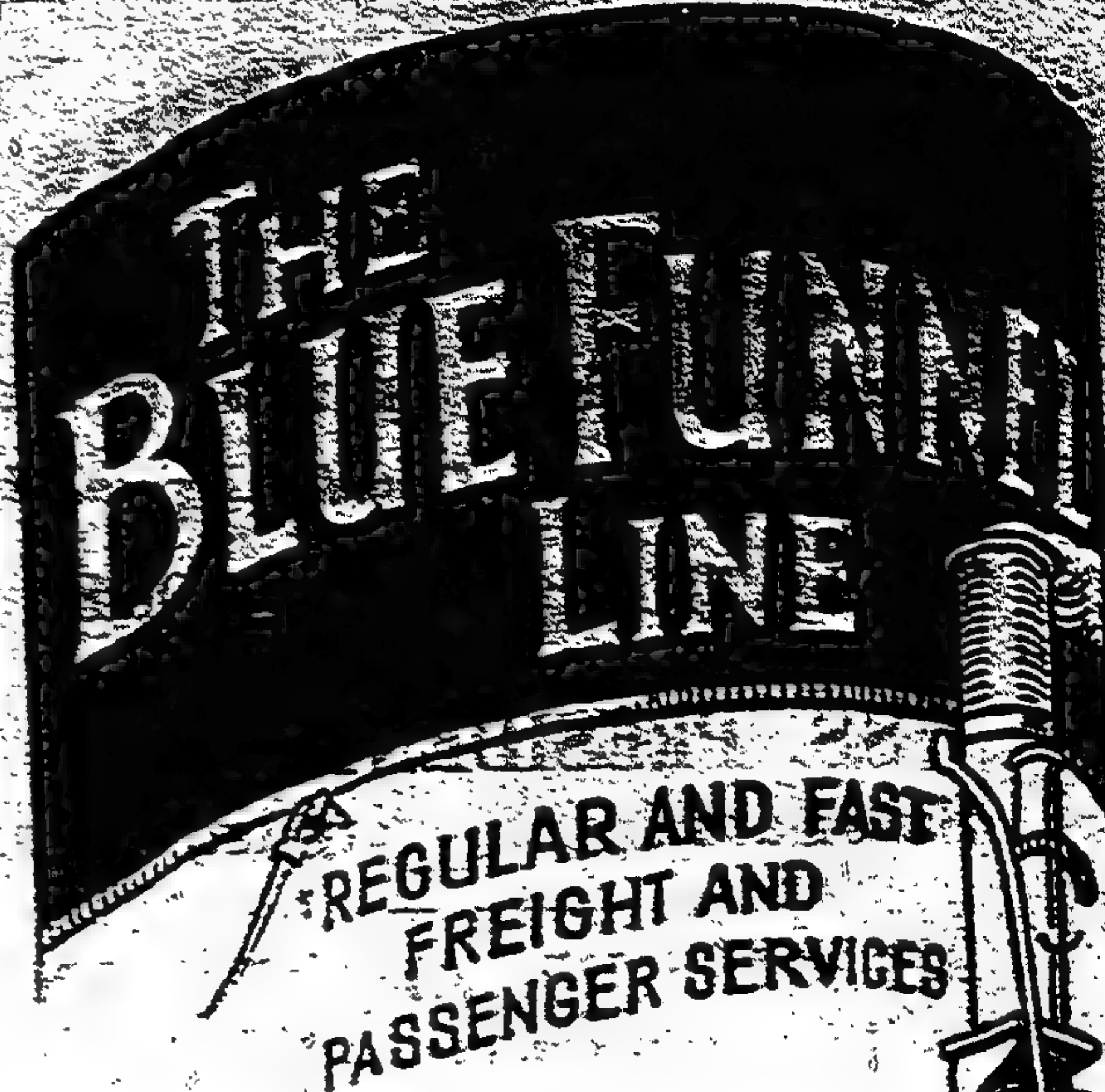
KEELUNG

Hong Kong Maru	Sat.	8th Jan. 1938
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NEW YORK SERVICE

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STEAMER	Due Hong Kong	Leave Hong Kong	Leave Manila	Due Sydney
TAIPING	7 Jan.	14 Jan.	16 Jan.	31 Jan.
CHANGTE	11 Feb.	18 Feb.	21 Feb.	9 Mar.
TAIPING	8 Mar.	15 Mar.	18 Mar.	3 Apr.
CHANGTE	12 Apr.	19 Apr.	22 Apr.	8 May.

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Suez Canal, Naples, Genoa and Marseilles.

S.S. PRESIDENT VAN BUREN

Sails Sunday, January 2nd, 8 a.m.

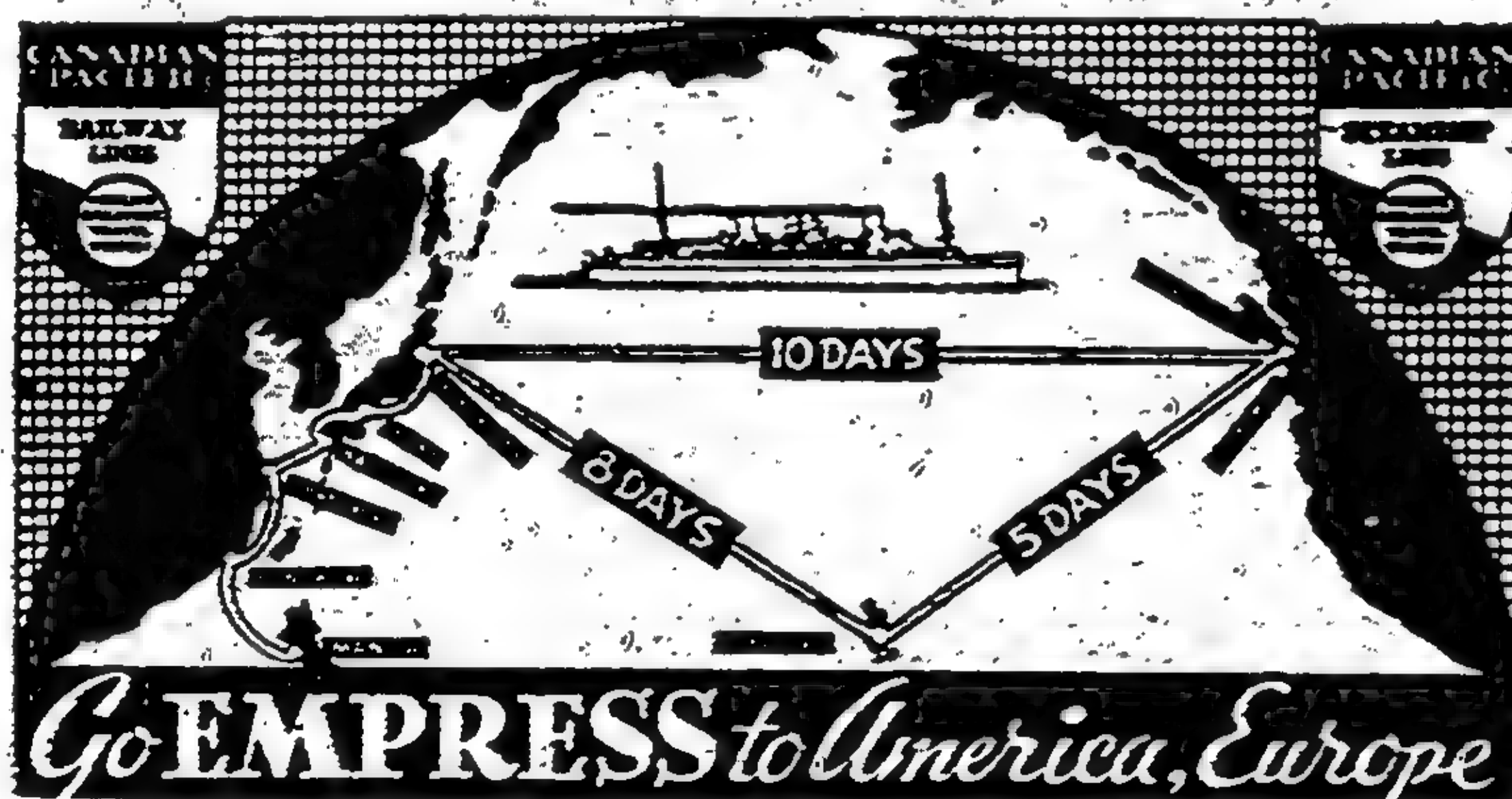
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S.S. PRESIDENT COOLIDGE

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Empress of	Hong Kong	Shanghai	Nagasaki	Kobe	Yokohama	Honolulu	Vancouver
at	Leave	Arrive	Leave	Leave	Leave	Leave	Victoria

Russia	Jan. 26	Jan. 28	Jan. 30	Feb. 1	Feb. 3	—	Feb. 12
Japan	Feb. 8	Feb. 10	—	Feb. 13	Feb. 15	Feb. 21	Feb. 26
Asia	Feb. 23	Feb. 25	Feb. 27	Mar. 1	Mar. 3	—	Mar. 12

RESUMPTION OF CALL AT SHANGHAI

Commencing with the Empress of Russia from Hong Kong January 26, 1938, Canadian Pacific "EMPRESSES" will call at Shanghai on the eastbound voyage.

The Empress of Asia from Vancouver will call at Shanghai on January 24th, en route to Hong Kong.

SAILING TO MANILA

Empress of Japan on January 14th.

Canadian Pacific

NEW
ADVERTISEMENTS

NOTICE.

ARMS LICENCES

Holders of Arms Licences are reminded that Arms Licences are due for renewal on 1st January, 1938 (Fee \$10.00 per licence). Licensees should call at the Accounts Office, Police Headquarters between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily (Sundays and Public Holidays excepted), with their arms and licences.

C. G. PERDUE,
Inspector General of Police.
Hong Kong, 30th Dec., 1937.



NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the following licences and permits are due for renewal on the 1st January, 1938:—

- (1) Private Rickshaw & Driver Licence.
- (2) Private Chair & Driver Licence.
- (3) Tricycle & Driver Licence.
- (4) Public Motor Vehicle Licence.
- (5) Motor Vehicle Permits.

Before relicencing tricycles must be taken for inspection to No. 2 Police Station, Wanchai, or Tsim Sha Tsui Police Station, Kowloon, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12 noon between January 3rd and January 24th, 1938.

C. G. PERDUE,
Inspector General of Police.
Hong Kong, 31st Dec., 1937.

LOCAL DOLLAR

The demand rate on the Hong Kong dollar this morning was 1/27s.

"Spot" silver was quoted at 18-9/16 and "forward" at 18-7/16.

The London on New York cross-rate was quoted at £-U.S.\$1.9972 and the New York on London rate at £-U.S.\$1.993/4.

Singapore Raw Rubber

Messrs. H. B. Joseph and Co., have received the following quotations in Straits Currency for Raw Rubber:

Jan/March 23-1/2 b. Up 5/8.

April/June 23-7/8 b. Up 5/8.

July/Sept. 24-1/4 b. Up 5/8.

Market: Steady.

The P. and O. s.s. "Nellore" is due here from Manila to-morrow at about 1 p.m.

Course of nine public lectures on

Air Raid Precautions

The Fourth lecture of this course will be given in the China Fleet Club Theatre

on

Monday, 3rd January, 1938,

at 5.30 p.m.

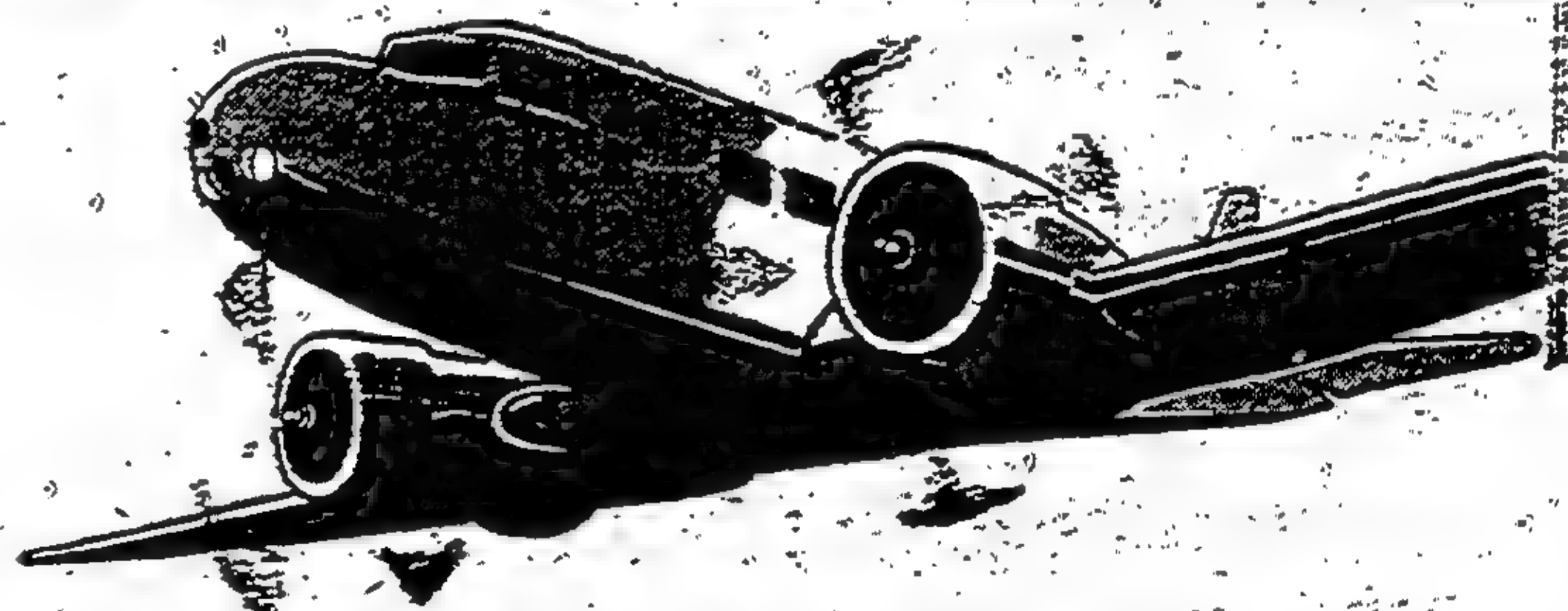
Subject:—Effects and characteristics of war gases.

Lecturer:—Lieutenant-Commander B. M. Douglas, R. N. (Retd.) Open to all members of the Public without charge.

Programmes of the course of lectures may be obtained on application to the Extra Assistant Colonial Secretary, Colonial Secretary's Office.

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ART COVER COMPETITION

Madame Sun Fo, General Wu Te-chen, Governor of Kwangtung, Sir Shouson Chow, Professor Hsu Ti-shan, Professor K. K. Lim and Mr. Luis Chan have consented to act as the Judges for the Art Cover Competition in connection with the publication of the special China War Relief Album.

As a result of requests, the date for the closing of entries has been extended from December 31, to January 10, 1938.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE LESSON SERMON

Subject: God

The subject of the Lesson Sermon in all Churches of Christ, Scientist, tomorrow Jan. 2nd, will be "God."

The Golden Text will be, "Thy way, O God is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?" (Ps. 77.) Among others the following citations will be read from the Bible, "And they brought unto him also, infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him and said, Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not; for of such is the Kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein. For the Kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God and approved of men. Let us therefore, follow after the things which make for peace and things wherewith one may edify another." (Luke 18: Rom. 14.)

The following passages will also be read from the Christian Science Text-book, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," by Mary Baker Eddy, "Willingness to become as a little child and to leave the old for the new, renders thought receptive of the advanced idea. Gladness to leave the false landmarks and joy to see them disappear, this disposition helps to precipitate the ultimate harmony. The purification of sense and self is a proof of progress. "Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God." Unless the harmony and immortality of man are becoming more apparent, we are not gaining the true idea of God; and the body will reflect what governs it, whether it be Truth or error, understanding or belief, Spirit or matter. There is but one way to heaven, harmony and Christ in Divine Science shows us this way. It is to know no other reality—to have no other Consciousness of Life—than good, God and His reflection, and to rise superior to the so-called pain and pleasure of the senses. God's being is infinity, freedom, harmony and nomenclature.

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boundless bliss. "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Like the archpriests of yore, man is free "to enter into the holiest,"—the realm of God." (Pages 323: 242: 431): An-

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Colombo	Madras	Sourabaya
Delhi	Manila	Taipei
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R. W. ROBERTS, Manager.

Hong Kong, 1st January, 1935.

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FOR THE HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION,
V. M. GRAYBURN, Chief Manager.

Hong Kong, 1st March, 1937.

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Y. KANO, Manager.

Hong Kong, 11th September, 1937.

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1937 RACING SEASON REVIEWED

H.K. JOCKEY CLUB HANDICAPPER TO BE CONGRATULATED

Happy Eve Outstanding China Pony

NORTHERN JOCKEYS IMPRESS: ONLY TWO ACCIDENTS

(By "RAPIER")

WITH the completion of the Thirteenth Extra Race Meeting, held on Saturday, December 18, the curtain was wrung down on racing for 1937, under the auspices of the Hong Kong Jockey Club. It was indeed a very fitting climax to a year of successful and most enjoyable racing, for which the officials of the Hong Kong Jockey Club have every reason to feel satisfied.

IN REVIEWING THE ACTIVITIES OF RACING AFTER THE SUMMER RECESS, ONE CANNOT BUT HELP BEING IMPRESSED WITH THE GREAT PART THE WEATHER HAS PLAYED IN EVERY MEETING. IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR RACING PREVAILED THROUGHOUT THE SECOND HALF AND THIS FACTOR, IN ITSELF, WAS RESPONSIBLE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT FOR THE NOTICEABLE INCREASE IN ATTENDANCES DURING THE LATTER STAGES.

With more interest taken in local racing, the Cash Sweeps naturally benefitted, and the handsome payments on winning tickets were certainly well worthy of the investment. It is, therefore, safe to predict that the Dollar Sweep is now strongly established in the public's fancy, and this should continue indefinitely.

With the special care and attention which had been lavished on the grass track, the going, on the whole, was quite satisfactory.

The officials of the Hong Kong Jockey Club were again tireless in their efforts in catering for the comfort and requirements of the general public, and they were certainly amply rewarded.

Further, I submit that the official starter, Mr. Alex Potts, and the clerk of the Course, Mr. "Tam" Pearce, deserve special commendation for the efficient manner in which they both discharged their respective duties. A special word of appreciation should also be extended to the official handicapper, and no greater tribute can be paid to him for his work than the fact that a large number of the races finished with the narrowest of margins separating the winners.

DISTRIBUTION OF HONOURS

An outstanding feature of racing during the second half of the season was the even distribution of honours among the owners. On several occasions owners could score no more than a single win, and this should serve as added inducement for others to take an active interest in our local racing. Mr. Li Lan-sang was the most successful owner, and the season has certainly been a very profitable one. He leads the list with 13 wins, being followed by Mr. L. Dunbar, Mr. Eu Tong-sen and "Dynasty."

Since their arrival in the Colony, H. E. The Governor, Sir Geoffrey Northcote, and Lady Northcote have been keenly interested in our racing, and it did not take long for the latter to become an active owner. She has acquired control of Gladiator, and was accorded a hearty welcome when her colours made their



Gypsy Love, above, with Mr. S. C. Liang, the new Champion Jockey up, was the best of the New Australian ponies.

CHAMPION JOCKEY

As it is generally known by this time, Mr. S. C. Liang has been proclaimed Champion Jockey for 1937, a position which Mr. Don Black held in 1936. These two Jockeys engaged in an interesting duel for supremacy at the last meeting, and it was not until Mr. Liang had won the seventh race on A Great Time that his position was made secure. Messrs. B. L. Tao and K. S. Shu, two of the most competent jockeys from the North, have been riding since the commencement of racing after the summer interval, and racing fans have been greatly impress-

ed by their prowess in the saddle. Mr. Tao has met with a greater degree of success than Mr. Shu, the former's best performance being his win in the Australian St. Leger, on Gypsy Love. Mr. F. "Peanut" Marshall came down specially from Shanghai to ride Happy Eve, in the China ponies St. Leger, after which he returned to the Northern port, but it will not be long again when we shall have the pleasure of having his company, as he will undoubtedly be coming down to take part in our next Annual Race Meeting.

TWO ACCIDENTS

Two of our local Jockeys met with accidents, the one to Mr. P. P. Botelho being the more serious. Mr. Ip Kui-ying had a nasty fall whilst training in the morning, and I am glad to be able to record that they have both fully recovered from their injuries.

Messrs. S. W. Tang and W. G. Poy graduated from the Novice class during the course of the year, and it is interesting to record that both of them have been distinguishing themselves against their more experienced colleagues. Mr. Tang was instrumental in paying a grand dividend when he won on Gold Coin, and Mr. Poy emulated his example when he brought in Firefly to pay a substantial dividend in the last race of the final meeting.

CHINA PONIES

Among the China ponies of this season, one cannot be over-enthusiastic about them when compared against the older ponies. By virtue of its win in the Hong Kong Derby, and the easy manner in which it annexed the Hong Kong St. Leger, Happy Eve commands the first place of honour. There is no denying the fact that Happy Eve has proved itself superior in every respect to the other China ponies of this season, although it is regretted that it has been kept away from active racing for lengthy periods.

After Happy Eve, I should say that Expansion Time comes next. The latter was marked down as a pony of merit from the commencement of this year's racing, and this opinion has been substantiated by its accomplishments. It came in second in the Hong Kong Derby, and went on to win the Hong Kong Grif-

(Continued on Page 19)



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1937 RACING SEASON REVIEWED

(Continued from Page 18)

fins' Cup for its owner, after which it took second place in the St. Leger.

INCONSISTENT!

In Havoc Eve, the Sassoon Stable has a pony of indifferent merits, although at one time it was strongly supported as a leading candidate for the Derby. It won the Trial Plate, and has since done practically nothing worthy of note. Out of the other China ponies of this season, I think that King's Coronation, belonging to Mr. Dynasty, has made the most distinct improvement.

It will be recalled that at the Annual Meeting, this pony was a source of bitter disappointment, but under capable and patient guidance, it has since done remarkably well. Ridden by Mr. Benny Proulx, it won the Island Bay Handicap, the Carnarvon Handicap, and dead-heated for first place with Potentate, in the Sussex Handicap. In Potentate and Rob Roy, I believe that Mr. Eu Tong Sen has every reason to be satisfied. Potentate, of course, is the better of the two, having scored more wins.

BELEATED FORM

Mr. L. Dunbar has not met with any degree of success within recent years, as far as his Griffins are concerned. Commencement Bay failed to come up to scratch at the big meeting, but it has since redeemed itself with a couple of wins. Mrs. L. Dunbar's Red Feather also revealed beleated form, and it was not until the Twelfth Extra Race Meeting when, cleverly handled by Mr. S. W. Tang, it carried off the St. Andrew's Stakes.

OLD GRIFFINS

Some of the best and most exciting finishes of the season under review have been served up by the old stagers among the Chinese Griffins, and in this respect, it is interesting to note that such races have been confined to only a few of them in the "A" Class, and they are as follows:—Bear Claw, King's Warden, Soldier of Britain, Oak Bay, Gladiator and Wild Life. It will be recalled that at the Annual Meeting, Bear Claw, which was then ridden by Mr. L. G. Frost, was beaten by King's Warden (Mr. Marshall). It was a good race until within the last 50 yards, when Bear Claw cracked up and allowed King's Warden to romp home the champion for the 1937 Annual Race Meeting.

Since then these two ponies have clashed in several events, in the majority of which Bear Claw turned the tables on King's Warden. Bear Claw did quite well in the first half of the season, and it was not until the Autumn Champions was reached when it re-established its superiority as the Champion. In this race, Mr. Black revealed clever strategy by taking the lead before rounding the bend, which took Mr. S. C. Liang on King's Warden completely by surprise.

YEOMAN SERVICE

Since making its appearance on the local track, King's Warden has rendered yeoman service for its owner. It has won a considerable amount in stake money, and I reckon that it will continue to do so for another few years.

There is no doubt that King's Warden, by virtue of its sturdy build and unlimited stamina, is a most difficult pony to defeat, and although it has lost to Bear Claw on a few occasions, it was at one time regard-



ed as being the next best to Liberty Bay.

"PAIN IN THE NECK"

Soldier of Britain has had many ups and downs; its form in racing is most difficult to judge, as evidence of which, it was not until the Twelfth Extra Race Meeting that it revealed its true form. When Mr. Dunbar disposed of his flyer, Oak Bay, I very much doubt whether he expected that one day his own discarded pony would give him a real "pain in the neck."

This actually happened, when, in the Double Tenth Plate, Oak Bay created something of a mild sensation by defeating Bear Claw, on which the hopes of the Dunbar Stable were so confidently placed. Whilst in no way disparaging Oak Bay's merit, I think I am not far wrong in stating that the benefit of a good start enabled it to win.

RAPID IMPROVEMENT

Mr. Dunbar certainly knew what he was doing when he brought Wild Life into his fold. This pony has made rapid improvement, and it is no doubt within the recollection of my readers that Wild Life and King's Warden provided thrilling finishes, on a few occasions, with honours equally shared since the commencement of the Annual Race Meeting.

SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFINS

There is not really much to say regarding the Subscription Griffins, as practically all the important events have been annexed by one pony. Gordito has so strongly established its superiority over the others that in any race confined to subscription griffins, of this season, in which it appeared, the result was a foregone conclusion.

It has proved itself supreme, but it is indeed a pity that no probation has been made in any race in which it could be given an opportunity of running against the subscription griffins of past seasons, such as Rose Evelyn, Wild Cat, Racing Boy, Tiny Star and Bistre. Whether Gordito is better than any of these ponies is hard to tell, although I am of the opinion that it is capable of beating any of them.

Gordito has turned out to be a veritable gold mine for its joint lucky owners, none other than Mr. R. M. Lasala and Mr. Eddie Souza, both "Gordos" of the local turf. They have more than good reason to be satisfied with their investment, and this will be more than justified within the next few years, as I have no doubt that Gordito will continue to win some more races, even in better company.

SHIPMASTER IS NEXT BEST

Shipmaster came in second in the Autumn Champions, and so must be regarded as being the next best to Gordito. Shipmaster has not done so badly within recent months, but to Coronation Day must be given credit for making the greatest improvement. Prior to the Annual Race Meeting, Coronation Day was generally regarded as being the best of this year's lot of subscription griffins, but it turned out to be a disappointment.

It was evidently not trained up to scratch then, with the result that

it failed to win races for its owner.

Since then, however, it has been given real hard work and the result revealed has been remarkable. Tabby Cat was another pony which failed to come up to predictions, but in this case the pony met with a slight accident, which naturally retarded its progress in training.

IN FATAL ACCIDENT

With patience and perseverance, its stable connections have succeeded in bringing it up to fine condition, as a result of which it has won quite a few races. This pony, however, was partly responsible for the accident in which the late Mr. S. Y. Liang was thrown, and which resulted in his demise.

In Yum Sing, again, we have in view another pony which failed at the Annual Meeting, and it has taken practically a year to win a race for its owner. For short distances, I consider that Whalsey is most difficult to beat, and it proved its prowess in this respect when it won the Human Handicap (Second Section) with Mr. Proulx up.

OLD SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFINS

Here again, nothing much can be said regarding the old subscription griffins, as not many of them were on view during the second half. Tiny Star was certainly in brilliant form when it won the Jordan Handicap (First Section) for "D" Class Ponies at the Eighth Extra Race Meeting.

Rose Evelyn, the 1936 champion has not met with much success, principally due to the heavy weights which it had to carry. Its best effort was in the Shum Chun Handicap, (Second Section), for "C" Class Ponies, when it came in third after having been left behind for about 10 lengths, which was certainly a great effort.

Racing Boy is probably feeling the effect of old age, but it will be recalled that not so many years ago it was supreme in its own class. Wild Cat has been conspicuous by

its absence, and both Seventeenth of September and Bistre, of the old brigade, have also done nothing worthy of mention.

NEW AUSTRALIAN PONIES

Among the Australian ponies of this year, there is no denying the fact that Gypsy Love has proved itself outstanding. It won the Rooty-Hill Derby without trouble, and has since annexed the Freemanfile St. Leger. Its best effort, however, was when it dead-heated with Strathroy in the Canberra Handicap, but its failure in the Queensland Autumn Champions was most surprising.

Next to Gypsy Love comes Lancashire Chips, which has done remarkably well. It has not been too successful in long distance events, but even against the best Australian ponies of past seasons it is undoubtedly hard to beat over short races. Despite the fact that it has not had a win to its credit during the season under review, I believe that Home Brew has been showing gradual improvement, as evidence of which I need only refer to its third place in the Saughton Handicap. Ridden by Mr. C. L. Gregory, a novice jockey, and in a race confined to "A" Class ponies, Home Brew's success, although a minor one, was quite good.

In Strathcarrick, Mr. J. F. Macgregor has a pony the exact opposite of Strathroy. It started with great promise in the early part of its initial training, but it was reported to have gone lame, and consequently did not appear in racing until the

(Continued on Page 22)

DEVON'S RUGBY VICTORY OVER GLOUCESTERSHIRE

London, To-day.—In a Rugby Union Championship replay at Gloucester yesterday, Devon beat Gloucestershire by 13 points to 3. —Reuter.

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ANNUAL CHILDREN'S SPORTS AT K.C.C.

Big Programme For To-morrow

UNDER PATRONAGE OF GOVERNOR

The thirty-second annual children's sports under the auspices of the Kowloon Cricket Club, will be held to-morrow at the K.C.C. under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor, Sir Geoffrey Northcote and Lady Northcote, commencing at 2 p.m., post entries being accepted for all events.

The sports will be presided over by His Honour Mr. Justice R. E. Lindsell assisted by the Vice-President Mr. Ezra Abraham, while the following members comprise the Committee: Mr. F. Goodwin (Captain), Messrs. W. W. Hirst, W. L. McKenzie, W. Mulcahy, F. E. Nash, A. Nissim, A. W. Ramsey, C. J. Tacchi, G. A. White, F. G. Maumder (Hon. Treasurer) and V. C. Labrum (Hon. Secretary).

By kind permission of Lt. Col. J. H. L. Hindmarsh, the Band of the 1st Battalion, the Kowloon Rifles, will render selections throughout the afternoon.

The following is the programme of events:—

GIRLS' EVENTS

Flat Race (Handicap) over 11 and under 14; Skipping Race (Handicap) under 9; Flat Race (Handicap) over 8 and under 11; Potato Race (Scratch) under 12; Egg and Spoon Race (Scratch) under 8; Flat Race (Handicap) under 4.

BOYS' EVENTS

Flat Race (Handicap) over 11 and under 14; Boot Race (Scratch) under 9; Flat Race (Handicap) over 8 and under 11; Sack Race (Handicap) over 9 and under 14; Obstacle Race (Handicap) under 12; Flat Race (Handicap) under 4.

Interval for children's tea.

GIRLS' EVENTS

Flat Race (Handicap) over 4 and under 6; Skipping Race (Handicap) over 9 and under 14; Flat Race (Handicap) over 6 and under 8; Musical Chairs under 12; Egg and Spoon Race (Scratch) over 8 and under 14; Relay Race (Teams of four) under 14.

BOYS' EVENTS

Flat Race (Handicap) over 4 and under 6; Potato Race (Scratch) under 11; Flat Race (Handicap) over 6 and under 8; Tug-of-War (Teams of eight) over 8 and under 14; Three Legged Race (Handicap) under 12; Relay Race (Teams of four) under 14.

Presentation of prizes by Lady Northcote.

SOUTH CHINA ATHLETIC MEETING FOR TO-MORROW

The St. Joseph's Football Club are entering two teams in the Open Relay event in the South China Athletic Association Sports meeting to be held to-morrow at Caroline Hill.

The teams will be chosen from the following:—

A. Hussain, C. D'Almada, D. Alves, D. Leonard, P. Castro, N. Delgado, E. Marques and W. Sprinkle.

KIDDIES SPORTS AT POLICE R.C.

The annual kiddies' sports of the Police and Prison officers will be held to-morrow afternoon on the P.R.C. ground at the Valley, commencing at 2.30 p.m.



The new headquarters of the Kowloon Football Club, seen above, will be officially declared open to-morrow at noon by Mrs. N. L. Smith, wife of the Colonial Secretary.

AUSTRALIAN CRICKET TOUR FIXTURES

The following is the complete fixture list for the visit of Australia's 1938 Cricket Test tourists, including the five Test matches which will be of four day's duration for the first four Tests and will be played to a finish, if necessary, in the Fifth Test:—

APRIL

30—v. Worcestershire, Worcester.

MAY

4—v. Oxford University, Oxford.

7—v. Leicestershire, Leicester.

11—v. Cambridge University, Cambridge.

14—v. M.C.C., Lord's.

18—v. Northamptonshire, Northampton.

21—v. Surrey, the Oval.

25—v. Hampshire, Southampton.

28—v. Middlesex, Lord's.

JUNE

1—v. Gloucestershire, Bristol.

4—v. Essex, Southend.

10—v. England, Nottingham (first Test) (4 days).

15—v. Gentlemen of England, Lord's.

18—v. Lancashire, Manchester.

24—v. England, Lord's (second Test) (4 days).

29—v. Derbyshire, Chesterfield.

JULY

2—v. Yorkshire, Sheffield.

8—v. England, Manchester (third Test) (4 days).

13—v. Warwickshire, Birmingham.

16—v. Nottinghamshire, Nottingham.

22—v. England, Leeds (fourth Test) (4 days).

27—v. Somerset, Taunton.

30—v. Glamorgan, Swansea.

AUGUST

4—v. Scotland, Broughty Ferry, Dundee (2 days).

6—v. Scotland, Glasgow (1 day).

8—v. Durham, Sunderland (2 days).

10—v. Surrey, the Oval.

13—v. Kent, Canterbury.

17—v. The Army, Aldershot (2 days).

20—v. England, The Oval (fifth Test) (4 days or to a finish).

27—v. Sussex, Hove.

31—v. An England XI, Blackpool.

SEPTEMBER

3—v. Sir Pelham Warner's XI, Folkestone.

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BC20043—ON THE TRAIL WHERE THE SUN HANGS LOW The Street Singer.
ACROSS THE GREAT DIVIDE
BC20048—WHAT MORE CAN I SAY AFTER ALOHA Ray Kinney and Harmony Hawaiians.
HAWAII CALLS.
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SONG OF THE MARINES.
BC20046—I KNOW NOW Dick Powell.
CAUSE THE BABY SAYS ITS SO.
BC20040—A KISS IN THE DARK Jan Garber and Orch.
THE SIRENS SONG.
BC20044—AT NIGHT BY THE OCEAN Andy Iona And His Islanders.
MINNEHAHA.
BC20041—CAUSE MY BABY SAYS ITS SO Victor Young And Orch.
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TRIANGULAR RUGBY TOURNAMENT

Navy Clash With Club To-morrow

SAILORS' WIN WILL GIVE THEM THE TROPHY

The major attraction on to-morrow's sports programme is undoubtedly the Triangular Tournament Rugby encounter between the Navy and the Club on the Causeway Bay ground commencing at 4 p.m. The result of this game will probably decide the ultimate destination of the trophy.

The two teams were announced in yesterday's issues of the "China Mail" and there is not much more I can add to my remarks except that on current form, the Navy should win and secure the much coveted trophy.

Prior to the Triangular game, the Club "A" fifteen will meet an Army side at 2.45 p.m.

The Triangular teams are as follows:—

Royal Navy:—Surg. Lt. Ellis (Medway); Lt. Walters (Olympus); Lt. Harvey (Odin) (Captain); Lt. Elliot (Eagle); and A. B. Northcott (Adventure); Lt. Walsham (Adventure) and Lt. Talbot (Otus); Sergt. Burston (Adventure); Sig. Ford (Tamar); A. B. Romans (Eagle); Lt. Maydon (Orpheus); A. B. Thatcher (Eagle); Lt. Woods (Grampus); Lt. Anderson (Olympus) and Lt. Ogle (Phoenix).

Club:—W. M. Macgrath; L. E. Lammer; W. E. Grieve; H. D. Bidwell and D. H. Stewart; A. H. R. Butcher and J. L. Bommar; K. A. Watson; K. S. Salter; A. W. Holden; W. E. Peers; F. H. Needham; J. C. Miller (Captain); A. J. C. Taylor and J. Redman.

ARMY MEET NAVY AT RUGBY NEXT TUESDAY

Fixture Brought Forward

The Army Rugby team to meet the Royal Navy in the Triangular Tournament, at Causeway Bay, next Tuesday will be chosen from the following.

The fixture has been brought forward at the request of the Royal Navy whose ships are expected to leave Hong Kong on January 5 on their annual Southern cruise and they are not expected back until the beginning of March.

Sgt. Hutton (R.E.), Fus. Peritt (R.W.F.), Capt. Maisey (R.A.M.C.), Capt. Harvey (R.E.), Pte. Telford (R.A.O.C.), Pte. Ramsey (Seaforths), 2nd Lieut. Chiversall (Middlesex), 2nd Lieut. Gudgeon (Middlesex), Lieut. B. D. MacLagan (Seaforths), Lieut. Beadnell (Middlesex), Lt. Crawford (R.C.S.), Capt. Gillespie (R.E.), Cpl. Wainscote (R.C.S.), Fus. Rowlands (R.W.F.), 2nd Lieut. I. A. MacLagan (Seaforths), Pte. Watson (Middlesex), Sgt. Bayley (Middlesex), Pte. Rawles (Seaforths) and Lt. R. D. Lincoln (R.U.R.).

TRIANGULAR CRICKET MATCH FOR TO-MORROW

There are several cricket matches arranged for to-morrow the most interesting being the Triangular Tournament fixture between the Club and the Royal Navy on the latter's ground commencing at 11 a.m.

At Pokfulam the Hong Kong University Past Students will meet the Present while the Army and Indian Recreation Club both have fixtures the former meeting the Hong Kong Cricket Club juniors at Sookampoo while the latter will entertain the Navy.

INTERNATIONAL SOFTBALL SERIES PRACTICE TO BEGIN

FORUM ARE STILL CUP CONTENDERS

TO-DAY'S "SPOT-LIGHT"

(By "SHORTSTOP")

It is to be hoped that the two weeks' postponement of the Softball League schedule will not bring forth a waning of interest in the games. The Vets have not cinched the Mayo Trophy by any means and, if they lose to the Canadian Chinese Club in their return encounter, the English Forum will be strong contenders for the pennant.

The Softball season is a very short one and this postponement will hardly effect the playing of the game in any way. Most Softball fans are eager to see baseball commence and there will be a respite of three months before the latter game will be in full swing.

Not that a respite is needed in such a sport as Softball, but there are other sports activities which players can catch up on during the few months' lay-off.

The first call for practice has been issued by the Chinese in the International series. They mean business and are sending in two teams! It will be interesting to see how they will be segregated. With such an able coach as Abe Liu and the wealth of talent available, the Chinese have a very good opportunity of taking the International Shield for the first series of its kind in Hong Kong.

All Chinese who would like to make a place in either team are requested to turn out for practice on the vacant lot on the hill opposite La Salle College, Kowloon, or should get in touch with Roy Lau care of Dodwell and Co.

With the end of the year and our Softball season in sight, I take this opportunity of wishing readers—both of them!—a happy and prosperous New Year, and also a bigger and better Softball League next year.

"SPOTLIGHT"

Harry "Tuffy" Chinn, pitcher of the H. K. English Forum, was born on July 27, 1913, at Seattle, Washington, where he attended grade school and Franklin High.

The sobriquet of "Tuffy" was hung on him when he first took up the noble art of boxing, and it has stuck through the years. "Tuffy" isn't a very big fellow, as physical standards are measured, but he's all muscle and bone, and he could give a very good account of himself in a set-to.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

In grade school, he only played softball and soccer, but took up football, basketball, handball and, of course, baseball in High School. Football saw him in action in the backfield and, sometimes, as quarterback. In basketball, he was in the Chinese Athletic Club's five that won the Class "B" City League championship of Seattle and later, were runners-up in the Courier League in 1936.

As a hurler for the Chinese A.C. at Seattle "Tuffy" developed a mean outdrop, but he wasn't given an opportunity to show his wares on the local diamonds last season on account of his youthfulness.

ALWAYS SMILES

He distinguished himself, however, at the hot corner for the H. K. Chinese Baseball team during the season while his batting average was .230.

"Tuffy" first came to Hong Kong in 1932 and his second sojourn dates from the latter part of 1936.

No matter how bad the breaks are in a game, "Tuffy" is always smiling and it would take a lot of razzing to get his goat. To date, he has been pitching every game for the Forum and has made a very good showing.



GOLF STARTING TIMES

The following are the Royal Hong Kong Golf Club starting times for Fanning to-morrow and Sunday:—

SATURDAY

Old Course

9.12 a.m.	S. H. Dodwell, J. R. Masson.
9.15 "	S. J. H. Fox, O. E. C. Marton.
9.20 "	C. C. Black, H. G. Sheldon.
9.24 "	I. H. Geare, J. H. M. Andrews.
10.00 "	H. E. the Governor.
10.04 "	P. A. Cox, H. L. Schnitz.
	New Course
9.16 a.m.	R. G. L. Oliphant, J. B. Martin.
9.24 "	A. E. and Mrs. Lissaman.
9.32 "	E. R. Price, H. S. Jones.
10.32 "	W. J. E. and Mrs. Mackenzie.

SUNDAY

Old Course

9.12 a.m.	J. Harrop, A. Sommerfelt.
9.16 "	J. B. Harrison, R. Young.
9.20 "	A. B. Raworth, G. B. G. Hull.
9.24 "	I. H. Geare, A. D. Humphreys.
9.28 "	K. S. Morrison, S. H. Dodwell.
9.32 "	J. P. Whitham, H. J. Armstrong.
9.36 "	H. N. Williamson, N. K. Littlejohn.
9.40 "	R. Stock, J. E. Collis.
9.44 "	K. K. Rounds, L. R. Cramer.
9.48 "	N. L. Smith, W. J. Hawkins.
9.52 "	A. E. Lissaman, E. T. McMullen.
9.56 "	J. Leckie, W. L. Marshall.
10.00 "	H. E. the Governor.
10.04 "	W. J. Waddington, A. Murdoch.
10.08 "	W. S. Ryde, G. H. Bell.
10.12 "	W. Mulcahy, D. S. Edward.
10.16 "	Col. Austin, Wing Cdr. Bishop.
10.20 "	D. L. Prophet, W. Hewitt.
10.24 "	W. G. Robertson, R. K. Valentine.
10.28 "	I. P. Tamworth, R. G. Parker.
10.32 "	H. Overy, W. J. E. Mackenzie.
10.36 "	G. M. Park, D. S. Robb.
10.40 "	S. J. H. Fox, R. G. Gray.
10.44 "	C. S. Archbutt, Col. Mattheva.
10.48 "	W. A. Cornell, S. T. Butler.
10.52 "	W. N. A. Smalley, R. L. D. Wodehouse.

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PONY ROUP AT VALLEY PADDOCK

Unusual Conditions

Seven ponies, four of which were 1938 Subscription Griffins, were sold by public auction at the paddock of the Hong Kong Jockey Club

10.56 "	Col. Blake, O. E. C. Marton.
11.00 "	Major McDonald, Capt. Holmes.
11.04 "	Col. King, Col. Crewdson.
11.08 "	D. Black, A. A. Bremner.
11.12 "	E. Laidlaw, K. R. Quick.
	New Course
9.20 a.m.	G. and Mrs. Castle.
9.28 "	A. V. and Mrs. Greaves.
9.36 "	A. C. Godby, T. E. Chassels.
9.44 "	G. C. Worrall, L. M. S. Lloyd.
9.52 "	R. Anbrun, J. B. Morpeth.
10.12 "	Mrs. Mulcahy, Miss Curtin.
10.32 "	Mrs. Overy, Mrs. Mackenzie.
10.40 "	R. H. Challinor, B. Rolfe.
10.44 "	Mrs. Challinor, Mrs. Rolfe.
10.48 "	Mrs. Cornell, Mrs. Butler.
10.52 "	Mrs. Smalley, Mrs. Wodehouse.
11.00 "	Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Holmes.

yesterday. Two were, however, withdrawn being no bidders. The ponies and purchasers were:

China pony, bay, 13 hands 3 inches, gelding, 1938 Subscription Griffin aged; Mr. Kwok Hin-wang, \$1,300.
China pony, chestnut, 13 hands 3 inches, gelding, 1938 Subscription griffin, aged; Mr. Wong Kam-fan, \$860.
China pony, griffin, grey, 13 hands 3 inches, 6 years; Lieut. Dobson, \$15.
China pony, grey, 14 hands 2 inches, 4 years; Mr. W. H. S. Davis, \$110.
Election Time, bay mare, 14.1, 6 years; Mr. W. H. S. Davis, \$210.

With the exception of Election Time, purchasers of the other ponies as a condition of sale, were required to give a written undertaking to the Jockey Club that they would not export them from Hong Kong during the present hostilities between China and Japan.

The purchasers of the first two ponies are entitled to race them at the 1938 annual race meeting as subscription griffins.

RACING

(Continued from Page 19)

second half. It has carried a good deal of money in betting, but what a failure it has turned out to be!

OLD AUSTRALIAN PONIES

After winning the Champions Stakes at the Annual Race Meeting, Strathroy continued to win races despite the fact that it had to carry 165 lbs. on every occasion. It was very nearly defeated in the Canberra Handicap, when it dead-heat-ed with Gypsy Love, but it met its "Waterloo" at the hands of Able Amazon, an ex-Champion, in the Saughton Handicap. It must be conceded, however, that Able Amazon was getting the benefit of 24 lbs. handicap. The defeat of Strathroy in this race was not altogether unexpected, as it had not been in good condition. There is no doubt, however, that Strathroy is a pony of exceptional merits, and its return to form in the Annual Race Meeting for 1938 is practically certain.

AMAZING COMEBACK

After having been relegated to the background in the public's fancy for some time, Able Amazon made an amazing come-back with a vengeance. By beating Strathroy in the Saughton Handicap, this old-timer only revealed a glimpse of its true form. The race was a fairly fast one, with Lancashire Chips forcing the pace, but handled beautifully by Mr. S. C. Liang. Able Amazon won with a length and a half to spare.



It has since carried off the Queensland Autumn Champions, the result of which might have been different had Mr. Deitz, on Blandford, not been shut out near the rails. As a result of its run in this race, Blandford will be well worth bearing in mind at the next Annual Race Meeting.

Electron, after a lapse of form, came into the limelight in one race, but at the very next meeting, when strongly supported, it was a dismal failure. Double Finesse did extremely well to win the Corroborree Handicap and the Barrier Reef Handicap, beating such notable contenders as Lancashire Chips, Able Amazon and Electron.

NEW PONIES

And so we have come to the end of another year of racing activities, but the next Annual Race Meeting is not very far off. New ponies are now being put through their training, and I hope in due course to be able to furnish some information regarding their progress.

The topics of conversation for the next few weeks among racing fans will be confined to spotting the potential winners of the Valley Stakes, the Hong Kong Derby and the Kooty Hill Derby. I hope to be able to point out the likely ones at a later date, and until then I now bid au revoir to my readers.

WOOL HAS ADVANCED

50% during the past few months, but our contracts still enable us to keep our prices below standard. These opportunities CANNOT be offered again. So please BUY NOW!

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63 x 83 27.50 Pair
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58 x 78 21.00 Pair
Air-cel All Wool Blankets
70 x 90 35.00 Pair.



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FOR A SHORT SEASON ONLY

ISAKO'S GRAND RUSSIAN CIRCUS

Chatham Road, Kowloon
Nightly at 9.15 P.M.
SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S
TREAT

WISHING ALL OUR PATRONS A
PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

MATINEES FOR KIDDIES
ON

NEW YEAR'S DAY, SAT. AND SUNDAY,
AT 5 P.M.

On New Year's Eve The Performance will
be terminated at 11.30 SHARP
Advance booking at Moutrie's
Watch for the date of the celebration
of the 50th Anniversary of the Isako
in connection with his circus life

N.R.A. OVERSEAS POSTAL MATCH FIRED

Colony's Effort

Teams representing the Colony in the N.R.A. Inter-Colonial Postal Match, fired yesterday at Kowloon City under remarkably difficult conditions.

Although the weather remained fine, a gusty wind of unusual strength proved the undoing of many who did consistently well at the practice shoots.

The most remarkable feature of the shooting was the brilliant effort made by those using the "rifle as issued," and unless the scoring in other Colonies in this series shows a great improvement on that of last year, Hong Kong should find a place near the top of the list.

S. R. (a)				
Captain, A. C. Pullman (Middlesex)	300	500	600	Total
Sgt. Jordan	34	39	36	109
Cpl. Langford	38	42	32	112
Sgt. Cooper	38	40	37	115
P. O. Richards	37	40	32	109
Cpl. Puran Singh	43	43	38	124
Sgt. Bickell	38	34	37	109
L/Cpl. Baker	41	35	40	116
Pte. Moss	39	45	42	126
Total	308	318	294	920
S. R. (b)				
Captain, G. H. Lakeman	300	500	600	Total
C. Watson	42	46	42	130
Lieut. Hawkins	45	44	37	126
C. P. O. Pellow	43	44	44	131
Sgt. Mannell	48	47	39	134
Capt. Batchellor	44	43	41	128
F. Austin	38	45	39	122
Cpl. Morris	44	43	37	124
Cpl. Miller	41	44	42	127
Total	345	356	321	1022

In preparation for their Lai Wah Cup game next Sunday against the Royal Navy, the Army held a soccer trial yesterday at Sookumpoo. Several junior players were on view, but with the exception of Hurst, of the Engineers, who played on the left-wing in partnership with McGuigan, few of them shone. Reds won by four clear goals scored through Pearson (2), Hurst and Fraser.

CHURCHES

Sunday's Services

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

(Branches of the Mother Church, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Mass).
Macdonnell Road, by Macdonnell Road Tram Station.

Sunday Service, 11.15 a.m.

Subject:—"GOD"

Testimony Meeting, Wednesday, 6 p.m. A Reading Room is located at Bank of East Asia Buildings, 10 Des Voeux Road, Central, and is open daily, except Wednesdays and Saturdays:

10.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Wednesdays 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Saturdays 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
All authorised Christian Science Literature is available at the Reading Room.

The Public is cordially invited to attend the Services and visit the Reading Room.

THE NEW FREEMAN SYSTEM THERAPION No. 1 THERAPION No. 2 THERAPION No. 3

For full particulars of this new system of treatment, which has been developed by the late Dr. J. H. P. Bland, and is now being taught by Dr. J. H. P. Bland, write to the Freemason's Lodge, 11, Ice House St., 1st Floor, Phone 30761, Foot of Battery Path.

SWAPS

SWAP HEREIN NOT HEREAFTER

WILL SELL or SWAP

- 1-Smith Premier Junior Portable Typewriter as new.
- 2-Portable Remington Typewriter in very good condition.
- 3-Underwood Portable Typewriter Blue Frame, good condition.
- 4-Portable Underwood Typewriter Green Frame, good condition.
- 5-L. C. Smith Standard Typewriter 10" in good condition.
- 6-Pathe Motion Picture 8 mm. Camera in leather case.
- 7-Sheet Metal Covered Travelling Trunk as new.
- 8-Small White Enamelled Medicine Chest with Mirror.
- 9-Large double-end Teakwood Office Desk new.
- 10-Ensign Reflex Camera with 2.9 Dallmeyer Lense.
- 11-Statue of MAYATREAY 22" Buddha God of the future, "Mni Loi Fat" inset with old Jewel of Wisdom, (probably over 600 years, old) Shanghai Refugee hard pressed will consider first reasonable offer.
- 12-Ming Travelling Buddha in Gold Lacquer Shrine, TSUI CEE, The King of Purgatory, the Lad who hands you the Shovel. Very old piece. What Offers?
- 13-Several Silver-Mesh Ladies' Hand Bags in 3 different sizes.
- 4-Roll of over 30 very Old Japanese Coloured Prints by famous Japanese Artists including the old Spider Lady Print, inspection by appointment.
- 15-Table Model Victrola in good condition with 12 Records.
- 16-Large selection of used Gramophone Records.
- 17-English Pye Radio with extra Loud Speaker good condition.
- 18-Massive Blackwood Table with set of 4 Blackwood Chairs.
- 19-Large assortment of old Books.
- 20-A large Collection comprising of over 600 old Coins, some coins dating back to pre-Christian era. Will accept \$2,500.00. if sold before X'mas. Inspection arranged for Bona-fide purchasers.
- 21-SWAP WITH US AND LIVE IN CLOVER.

WANTED -- WILL SWAP OR BUY

Portable Typewriters.
Standard Typewriters.
Large Cash Register.
Good Adding Machine.
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Dover Coal Stove.
Kerosine Cookstove.
Gas Range & Geyser.
Standard Sewing Machines.
Old Gramophone Records.
Chesterfield & Chairs.
Small Outboard Motor.
Movie Camera 8mm.
Good Movie Projector.
Small Cabin Trunks.
Good Motor Cycle.
Office Furniture.
Good Camp Tent.
Travellers Samples.
Surplus Stocks.
Old Stamps & Coins.
Books on all subjects.
Copy Fan Kwai at Canton.
Copy Bits of Old China.
Books by Dr. H. B. Morse.
Books by J. O. P. Bland.
We Buy, Sell or Swap.

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU HAVE THAT YOU DON'T WANT SWAP IT FOR SOMETHING YOU DO WANT. LIST YOUR SWAPS OR GOODS FOR SALE WITH US. WE WILL ADVERTISE YOUR GOODS FREE AND CHARGE YOU 10% IF BUSINESS RESULTS. NO RESULTS NO CHARGES.

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11 ICE HOUSE ST.
1st Floor.
PHONE 30761
Foot of Battery Path

NEW
ADVERTISEMENTS

BANK HOLIDAYS.

In Accordance with Government Ordinance, the Exchange Banks will be CLOSED for the transactions of public business on SATURDAY, the 1st January, 1938. (The first week-day in January). Hong Kong, 29th Dec. 1937.

NOTICE.

THE EASTERN EXTENSION
AUSTRALASIA & CHINA
TELEGRAPH COMPANY,
LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the name of the above Company will from the 1st January, 1938, be changed to

CABLE & WIRELESS, LIMITED, with which is associated the Eastern Extension Australasia & China Telegraph Co., Ltd. (Incorporated in England).

An agreement has been signed between His Excellency the Governor, Sir Geoffrey Northcote, K.C.M.G., and Cable & Wireless, Ltd., for the transfer to the latter company of the fixed station commercial radio communications of the Colony as from January 1st, 1938.

The present Radio Traffic Office will remain in the P. & O. Bldg., Des Voeux Road, until the end of January, after which the Office will be transferred to the Offices of the Eastern Extension Telegraph Co., Ltd. (hereinafter to be known as Cable & Wireless, Ltd.).

Mobile Station Services (Ships at Sea and Aviation), Broadcasting and certain other services will remain under Government control.

Hong Kong, 28th Dec., 1937.

NEW YEAR!

Give Stamps to your children and start them on a life long pleasure.

We have Stamp Albums, Catalogues, and all Philatelic Goods.

Inexpensive packets and bags of stamps especially made up for School Children.

We have also a large selection of Picture and Painting Books.

GRACA & CO.

No. 10 Wyndham Street, Hongkong.
Established 1896.

NEW
ADVERTISEMENTS

PUBLIC AUCTION

PARTICULARS AND CONDITIONS of the Sale by Public Auction to be held on MONDAY, the 3rd day of January 1938, at 3 p.m., at the Offices of the Public Works Department by Order of His Excellency the Governor of one Lot of Crown Land at King's Road near Quarry Bay in the Colony of Hong Kong for a term of 75 years, with the option of renewal at a Crown Rent to be fixed by the Surveyor of His Majesty the KING, for one further term of 75 years.

Intending bidders are advised that immediately after the disposal of the lot the Purchaser (if not the applicant) will be required to deposit with an authorised officer who will be present at the sale, the sum of two hundred dollars, (\$200) in cash. This sum will be refunded on payment of the Purchase price.

PARTICULARS OF THE LOT.

No. of Lot	Registry No.	Locality	Boundary Measurements				Outlets to Road	Annual Rental	Upset Price
			ft.	ft.	ft.	ft.			
1	1000	Adjoining Island Lot No. 1000, King's Road.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
As per sale plan.			2,500				138	11,250	

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

ENGINEERS & SHIPBUILDERS

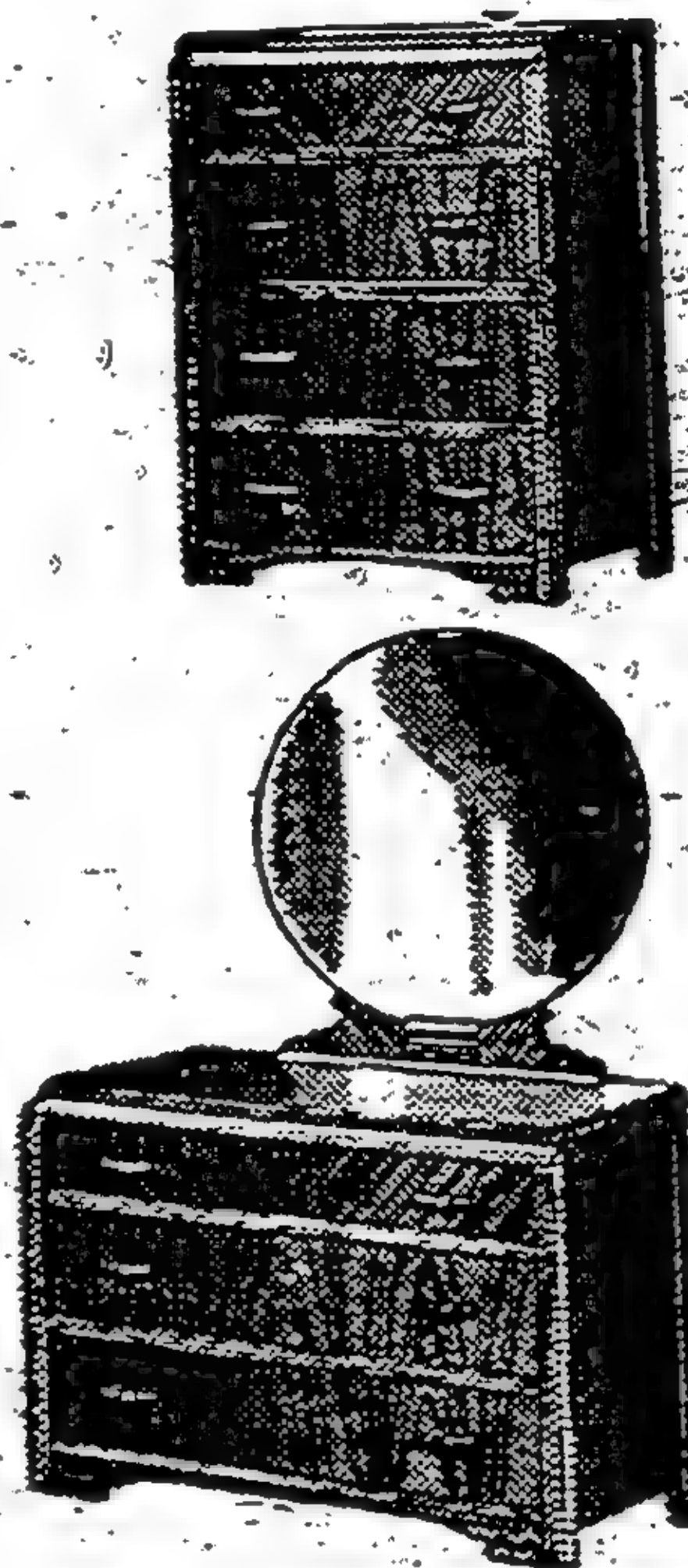
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Positively Heals Itch,
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Hong Kong Foot.
A Proven Success

37, Des Voeux Road, Central
or CHINA EMPORIUM, LTD.
and all Department Stores.

ASSORTED
BRASS
&
NICKEL
WARE
SUITABLE
FOR
NEW YEAR
GIFTS

USED FURNITURE FOR SALE.

Wardrobes, Beds, Dressing Table, Chest of Drawers, Book Cases & assorted carpets.

BLACKWOOD furniture of all kinds,

CURIOS, GRAMOPHONE, RADIOS, RECORDS & BOOKS.

One Perambulator good make, complete.

I set Golf Clubs, 8 pcs., in leather bag. Best English make \$25.00.

3 Used Ladies' Overcoats.

One Valise.

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LIMITED

BUYS, SELLS AND EXCHANGES HOUSE AND OFFICE FURNITURE, TYPEWRITING MACHINES, SEWING MACHINES, RADIOS. WE ALSO BUY JOB LOTS OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE. TRAVELLERS' SAMPLES, ETC.

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Palace Hotel Building.

Telephone 50058.

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ADVERTISING

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All replies under this heading must be called for.

TO LET

OFFICE FLAT TO LET—Commodious Ground Floor Office Accommodation in P. & O. Building. Ready for occupation on 1st March 1938. Apply Mackinnon Mackenzie & Co., P. & O. Building.

FOR SALE

FACTORY FOR SALE or TO LET immediately. ARTS & CRAFTS property, No. 734, King's Road, North Point, floor space including shed approx. 16,000 sq. feet with open storage (enclosed) about 11,000 sq. feet. On Water front and Bus and Tramway routes. Inspection by appointment. For further particulars apply to Lowe, Bingham & Matthews.

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HONG KONG LANGUAGE SCHOOL. Private study or classwork available under trained teachers of Mandarin or Cantonese. Telephone our city office, No. 27388, Room 605, National Commercial & Savings Bank Bldg.

EXPERT instructresses for ladies and young girls in music, shorthand, typing, bookkeeping and English and French. Apply 6 Aimal Villas, Austin Road, Kowloon.

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WANTED

Wanted immediately, attractive young lady for canvassing purposes. Commission paid on the spot. Apply Box No. 742 c/o "China Mail".

SITUATION WANTED

Englishman with Public School education desires position as English tutor. Private lessons or in classes. Apply Box No. 744 c/o "China Mail", 3A, Wyndham Street.

Bishop's Academy
For English

Private or Classes from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Apply Room 16 Wang Hing Bldg., 10 Queen's Rd., C.

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Christian Science Reading Room,
Room 606, Bank of East Asia Building,
10 Des Voeux Road, Central

TSINGTAO DESTRUCTION AS REPRISAL

Hankow, To-day.

Chinese destruction of Japanese property in Tsingtao was in the nature of reprisal for outrages committed by the Japanese on Chinese soil, declared a Foreign Office spokesman yesterday.

The action of the Chinese army and civilian population in blowing up and burning Japanese establishments, he asserted, was the natural outcome of the wrath caused by the destruction and plundering which has marked the path of the Japanese invasion.

According to the Chinese press, Tsingtao has now been evacuated by about 80 per cent. of the civil population, and practically all shops are closed.

The Japanese advance guards are still meeting with determined resistance near Weihai, between Tsinanfu and Tsingtao.—Trans-Ocean.

N. Y. K. Monopoly

Tokyo, To-day.

The N.Y.K. will shortly have an absolute monopoly on the Shanghai-Japan shipping route.

Within the next few days they are placing a number of 4,500-ton liners on the direct service.—Our Own Correspondent.

JAPANESE ADMIT HEAVY LOSSES

Peiping, To-day.

An official admission that the Japanese forces have suffered heavily in fighting north of the Yellow River, was made by a Japanese army spokesman at a press conference this morning.

The spokesman admitted that the Japanese had been unable to check guerilla activity along the Peiping-Hankow Railway, and these elusive bands of Chinese irregulars have cut up isolated Japanese forces in several places.

The Japanese, added the spokesman, are rushing reinforcements to all points where they are hard pressed.—Our Own Correspondent.

PEIPING 'GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE'

Peiping, To-day.

Re-shuffle of the new "provincial government of the republic of China" will take place to-morrow, when the "self-administration committee" is dissolved and new officials are appointed.—Our Own Correspondent.

NANKING CASUALTY FIGURES DENIED

Hankow, To-day.

Authoritative quarters dispute the figures of Chinese casualties in the defence of Nanking, contained in the official Japanese communique issued in Shanghai on Wednesday.

The communique placed the Chinese losses at 80,000 Chinese soldiers killed and an unknown number believed to have been great, wounded.

Military circles here state that only about 80,000 Chinese troops all told were engaged in the defence of Nanking, of which 50,000 have been accounted for as having withdrawn to places of safety.

The Chinese estimate of the casualties is 20,000 killed and wounded.—Reuter.

MONEY VS. DEMOCRACY IN U.S.A.

Washington, To-day.

The Cabinet's campaign of denunciation of monopolistic practices of big business was continued last night by the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Harold Ickes.

Mr. Ickes, in a radio broadcast, said that the irreconcilable conflict between the power of money and the power of the democratic instinct had reached such intensity that it must be fought to a finish, and until plutocracy or democracy—America's sixty families or America's 120,000,000 people—win.

Mr. Ickes accused the so-called sixty families, who obtained capital created by the people, of threatening the United States with its first general sit-down strike.

If the American people called their bluff, it would be a free and democratic America. If not, the American future would be a big business, Fascist enslaved country.—Reuter.

STOP PRESS

London, To-day.

There was nothing unexpected about the Japanese reply, says "The Times." Immediately the Note was handed to the British Ambassador, and before it was in the hands of his Government, the Japanese Services made public their own version. The diplomatic procedure which the Japanese army and navy saw fit to adopt, does not correspond with any recognised methods in use between governments. There is a certain irony, perhaps, significance in the incident when the Japanese Government gives far-reaching assurances of the future correct behaviour of the fighting Services to Britain, and before the words are out of their mouths, the Services are guilty of grave discourtesy to the Ambassador and to the British Government. This will not improve the atmosphere in which the Ministers are considering the Note, but the guarantees, if offers are impressive, and none will complain if the British Government, as seems likely, decides to accept them and to await events.—Reuter.

London, To-day.

The diplomatic correspondent of the "Daily Telegraph" says that first British reactions to the Japanese Note are to note that Japan's version differs from the well-authenticated version stated in the British Note of Dec. 16.

The Japanese version is not accepted. Nevertheless, it is observed that Tokyo sought to give the assurances demanded by Britain, both regarding disciplinary measures and guarantees against future repetitions.

This is regarded as satisfactory, and much now depends on the efficacy of the steps ordered by Tokyo and the readiness of commanders on the spot to carry them out.—Reuter.

London, To-day.

Several morning newspapers state that the Prime Minister has decided to take personal charge of the Foreign Office, when Mr. Anthony Eden leaves next week on holiday in the South of France, before going to Geneva for the League Council on Jan. 17. Mr. Eden thus will be absent from London for from two to three weeks.—Reuter.

POPULAR FALLACIES

That Camels Hair Brushes Are Made From Camels Hair.

This is not so.

They are made from hairs from the tails of Russian and Siberian squirrels. ROYAL TYPEWRITERS are made from the finest possible steel and all working parts are specially treated to withstand rusting.

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SANTA'S ANSWERS

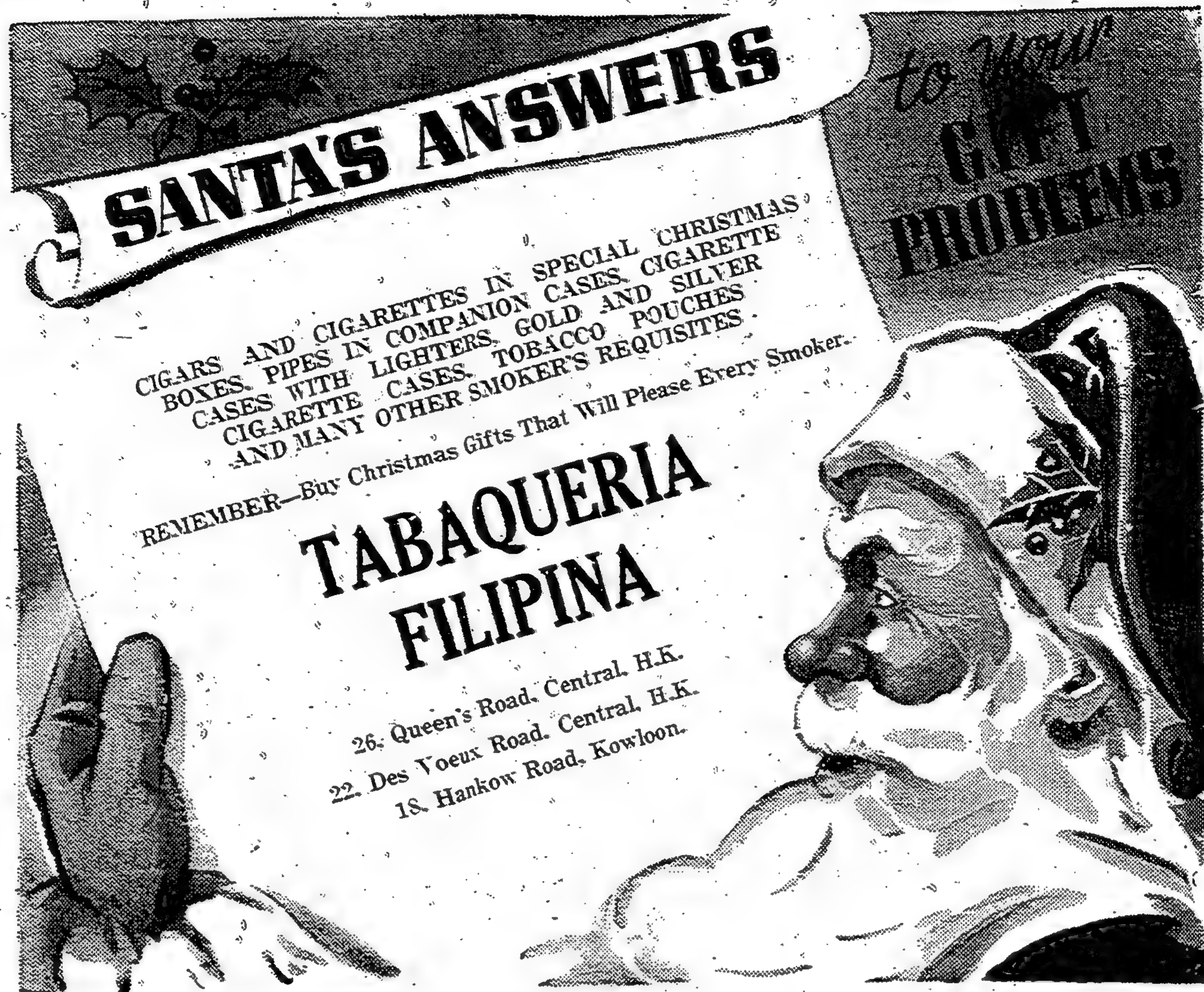
CIGARS AND CIGARETTES IN SPECIAL CHRISTMAS BOXES. PIPES IN COMPANION CASES. CIGARETTE CASES WITH LIGHTERS. GOLD AND SILVER CIGARETTE CASES. TOBACCO POUCHES AND MANY OTHER SMOKER'S REQUISITES.

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18, Hankow Road, Kowloon.

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A CUT OFF THE BREAST . . . A LEG . . . A WING . . . THE STUFFING . . . THE SAUSAGES . . . THE MINCE PIES . . . AND THE PUDDING! !

—ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE COOKED BY

G A S

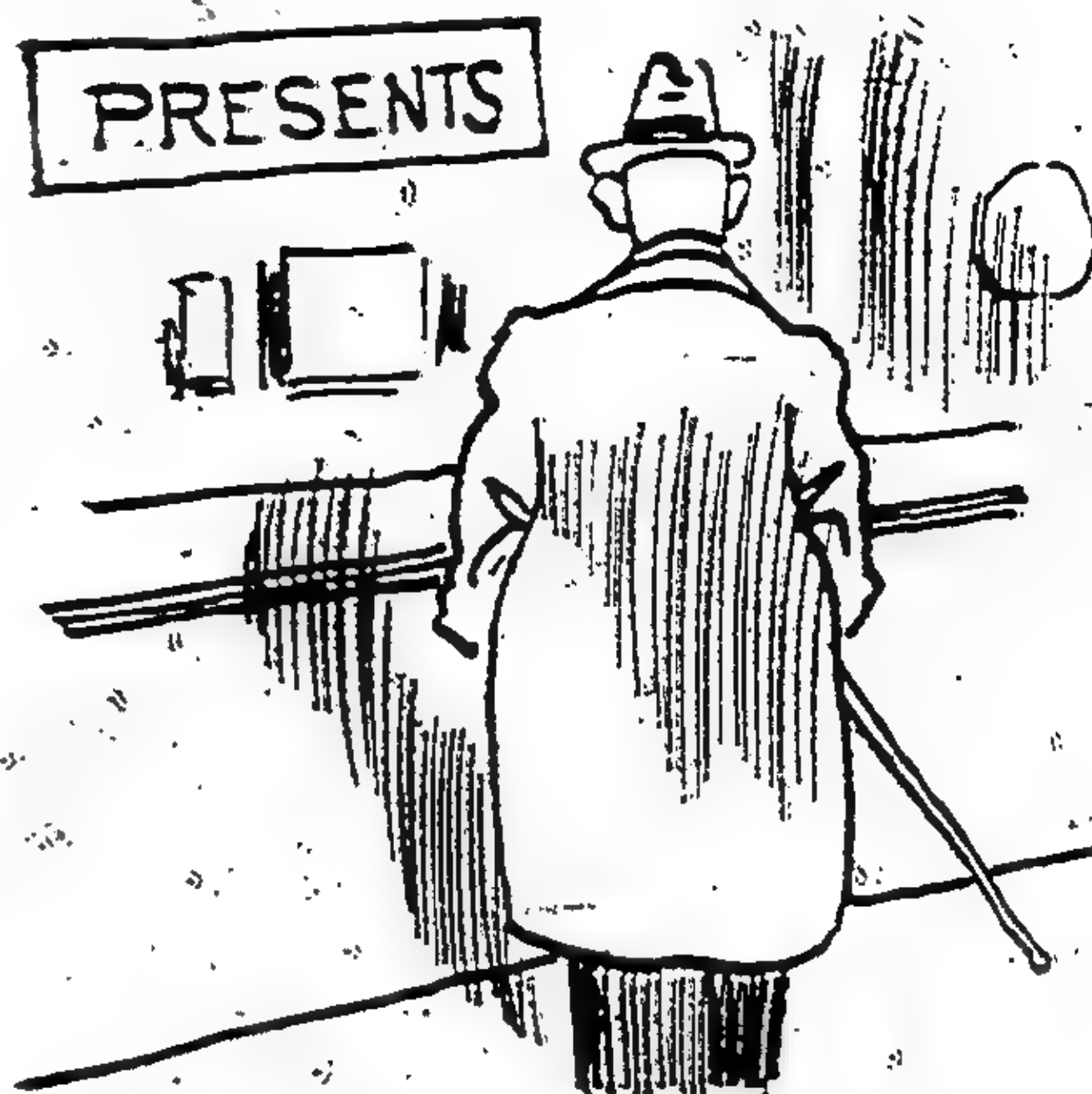
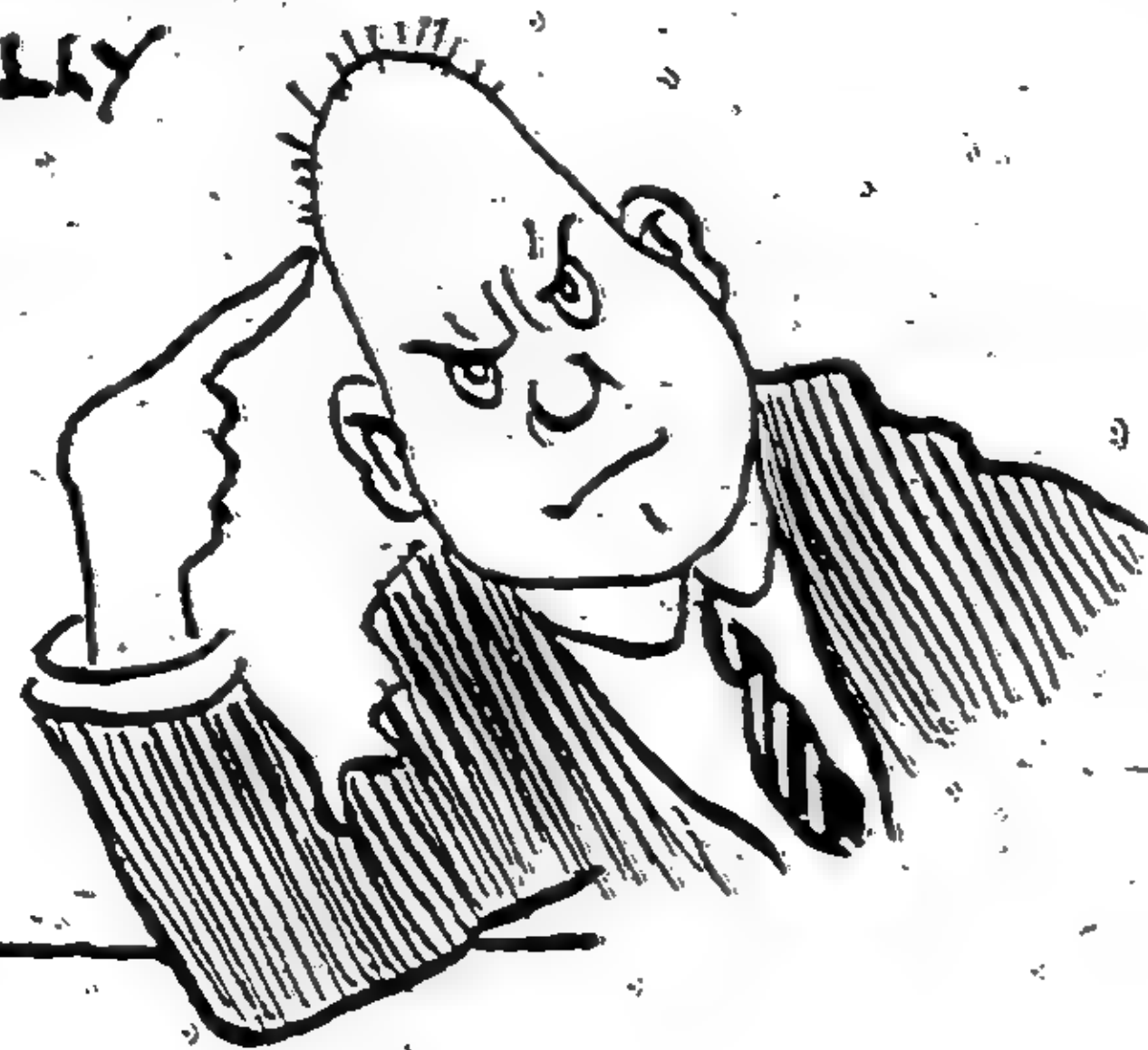
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"THIS IS ALL FOR THE PRESENT"

NOW THAT XMAS
IS PRACTICALLY
UPON US,
THE OLD
PROBLEM
OF WHAT TO
GIVE FOR A
PRESENT HAS
AGAIN TO BE
SOLVED. WE
SHALL AS
USUAL

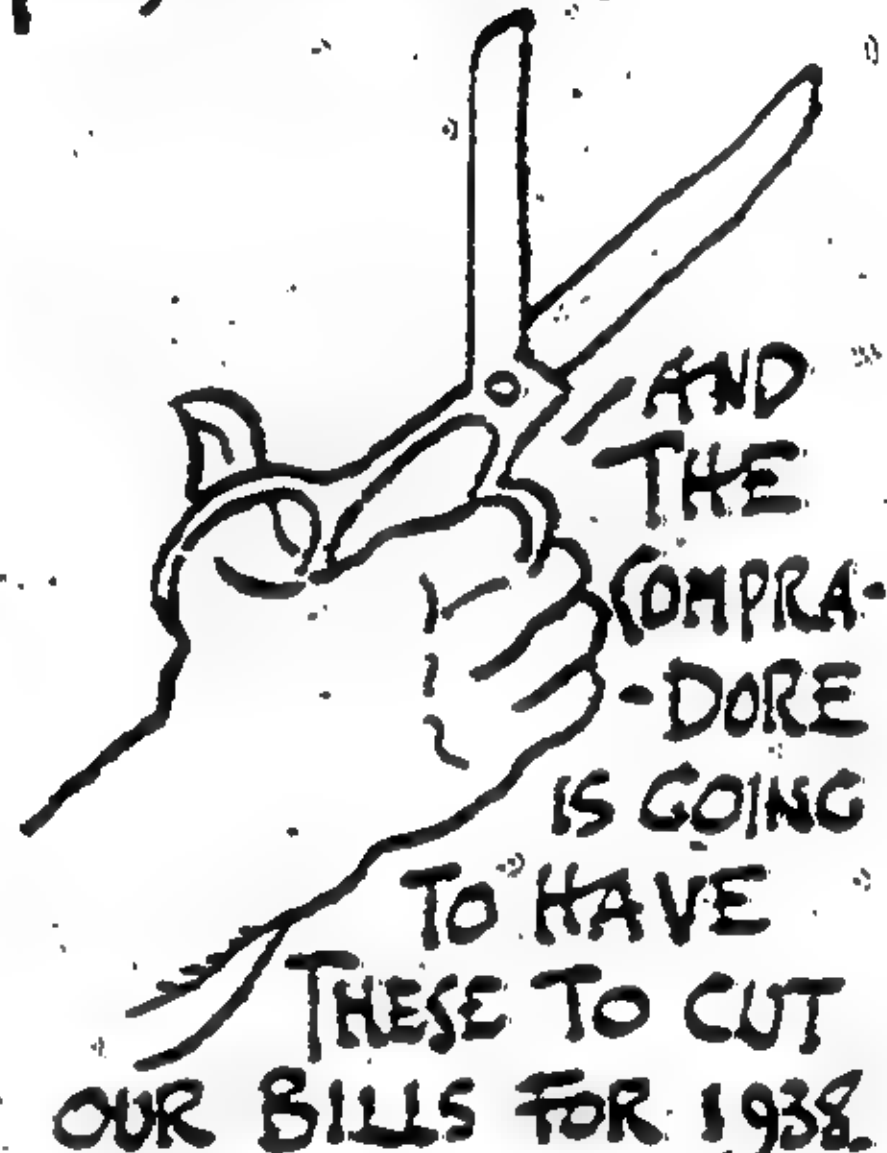


GO INTO A SPOT
OF DEEP THINKING,

CATALOGUES
MAY HELP.

AND WE SHALL
CERTAINLY SEE THE
SHOPS, BUT—

—WE NEVER
KNOW IF WE ARE
GIVING SOMETHING
THAT IS REALLY
NEEDED.—SO WE
SUGGEST OUR
FRIENDS GIVE US
SOME PRACTICAL
INDICATION OF
WHAT THEY NEED.
SOMETHING LIKE
THIS.



—THIS LAD IS
CRYING OUT FOR
A RAZOR.

THIS ONE A
NEW TIE,

A BEAUTY
OUTFIT WANTED
HERE.

AND THE
COMPRA-
DORE
IS GOING
TO HAVE
THESE TO CUT
OUR BILLS FOR 1938.
Stan Hill 1937.

Christmas Gifts

For the
LADIES



Silk Evening Scarves, Slippers, Handkerchiefs, Wallets,
Dressing Gowns, Pyjama Cases (Men's Wear Dept.)
Silver Backed Hair Brushes, Cigarettes Cases or Boxes, Dress
Stud Sets, Fountain Pens, Rolex Watches (Jewellery Dept.)

Brush Sets, Manicure Sets, Cigarette Cases, Flap-jacks and
Vanity Cases in solid silver and enamel (Jewellery Dept.)
Gloves, Handbags, Hosiery and Scarves (Ladies' Salon)
Golf Clubs, Golf Balls, Tennis Rackets, etc. (Sports Dept.)

For the
GENTLEMEN



— AND —
A magnificent array of TOYS,
DOLLS, & Instructive Games to
which you must not fail to bring
THE KIDDIES.

DO YOUR XMAS SHOPPING AT—

LANE, CRAWFORD'S

—AND ENSURE SATISFACTION!

Puzzle Corner



Many years ago, people thought the earth was flat. Columbus believed that it was a sphere and in trying to prove his theory discovered America. Can you find the globe by putting together the black pieces?

HIDDEN TREES

1. When interviewing the chief, I recalled my father's advice.
2. Without further ado, a knot was tied in the rope.
3. We were told to help Alma all we could.
4. Grace darted forward and rescued the kitten.
5. We placed a tulip in each person's hand.

A PUZZLER

My first is the World. Columbus reached
When he sailed out West from the old;
My second is what Columbus did
At the end of his voyage bold.
My third is something Columbus saw
Twixt the sea and the sky so blue
On October the 12th, that wonderful year
Of fourteen and ninety and two.
My whole's an animal shaggy and big,
Ever ready a life to save—
The animal's known as the Children's friend
And he's gentle as he is brave.

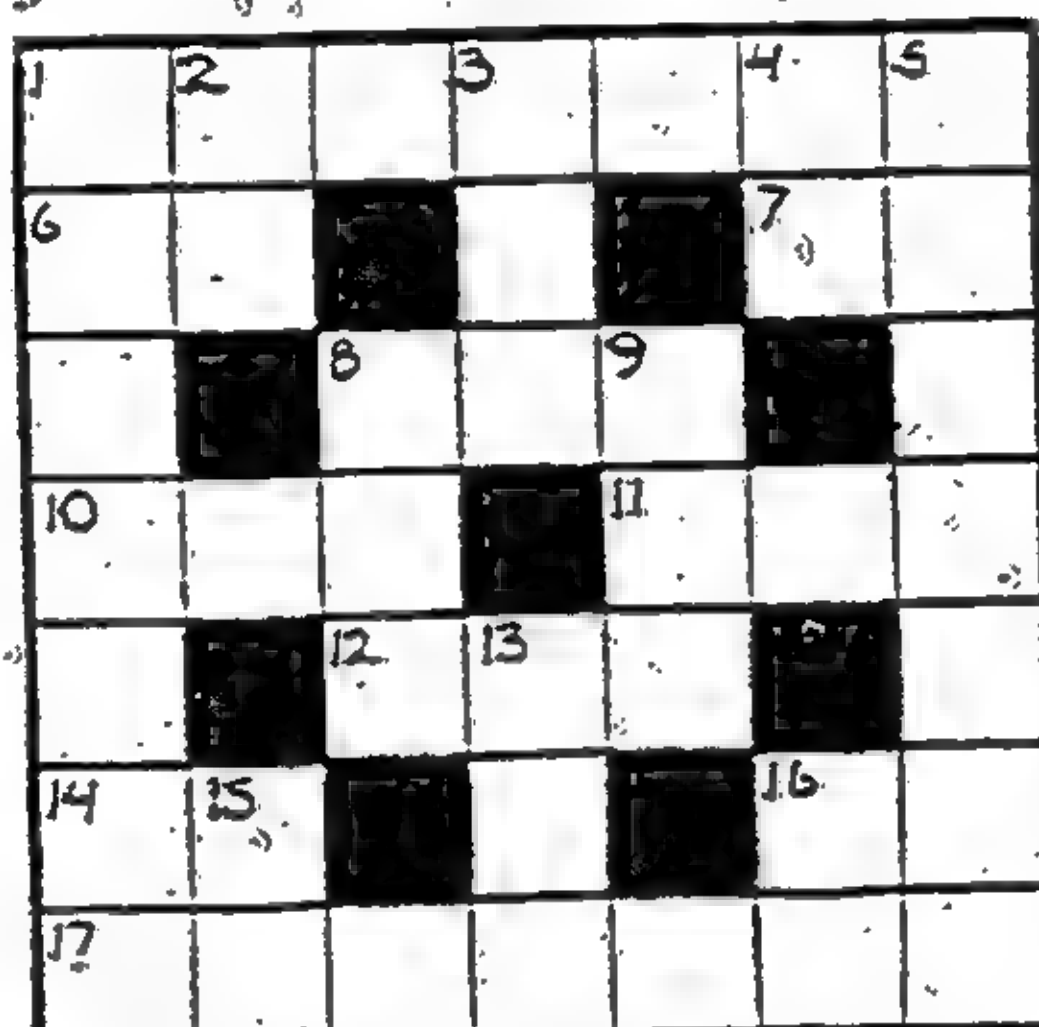
DIAGONAL

This diagonal contains seven words of seven letters each. If the words are rightly guessed and written one below another their diagonal letters, beginning with the top left-hand letter and ending with the lower right-hand letter, will spell the name of an old-fashioned, sweet-scented flower. The cross-words are:

1. A very sour liquid.
2. A little printed tract.
3. The lines in an aged person's face.
4. Sour tempered.
5. Supplications.
6. Of or pertaining to the world.
7. The name of a country.

DRINK
RICKSHA
BRAND **TEA**

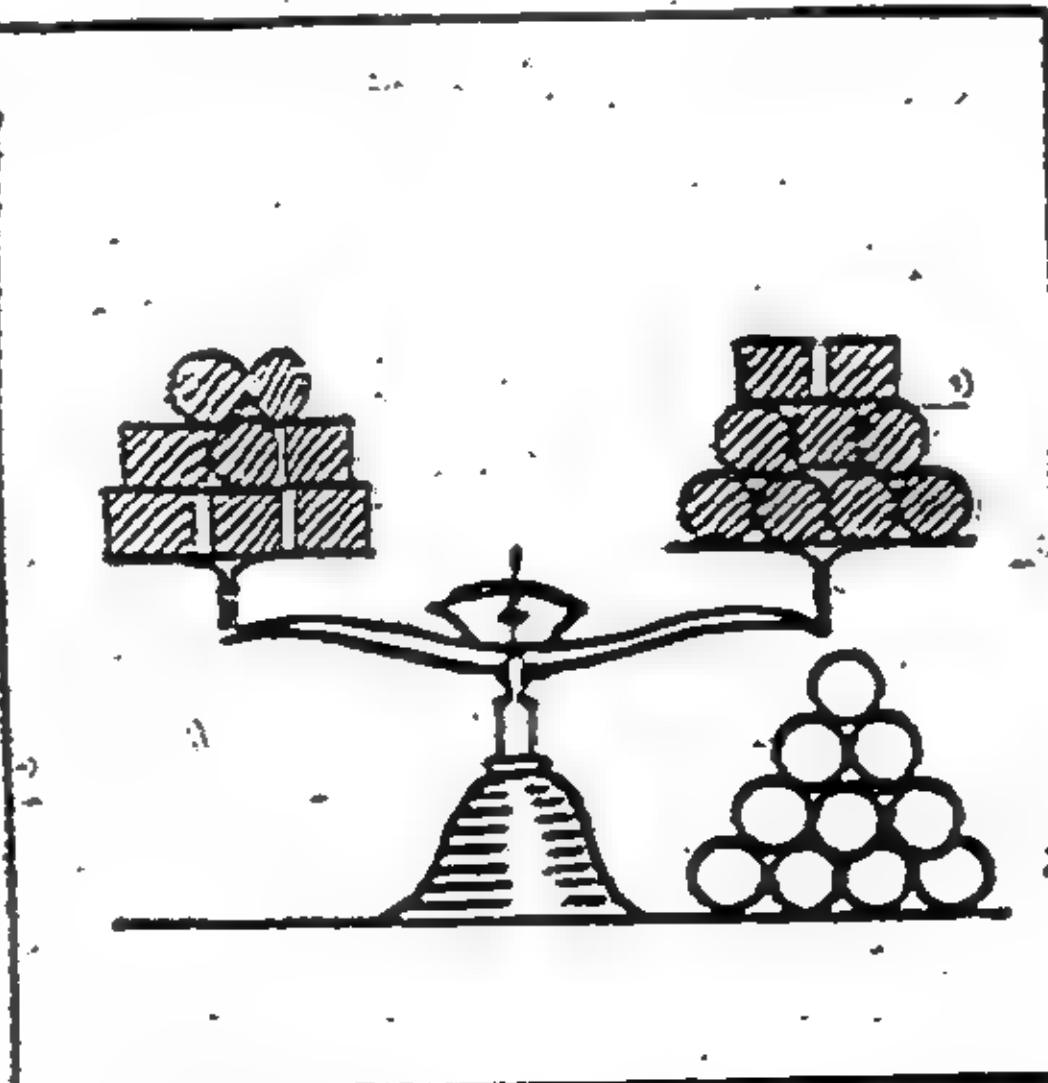
REARANGE THE LABEL



HORIZONTAL VERTICAL

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1—Tasks | 1—Most extended |
| 6—Ahead | 2—Half an em. |
| 7—Part of the Bible (abbr.) | 3—Series |
| 8—Consumed | 4—A negative |
| 10—Auto fuel | 5—Tales |
| 11—And not | 8—Poisonous |
| 12—Seed covering | 9—Final |
| 14—Very | 13—Uneven |
| 16—Pronoun | 15—Conjunction |
| 17—Trappers | 16—Mister (abbr.) |

THE BALANCED SCALES



The scales balance at present, with five cubes and three spheres equalising six spheres and three cubes.

Suppose that all the cubes are placed alone on one side of the scales, how many spheres will be necessary on the other side in order to make the balance?

All cubes are alike in weight, and all sphere are uniform.

CHARACTERISTIC INITIALS

The phrases below describe the characters of fiction whose initials are those used.

1. Fiendish Mongol.
2. Sleuth Himself.
3. Umble Hypocrite.
4. Playful Pixie.
5. Escaped Dungeon.

TWELVE-BOOK PUZZLE



The letters that appear on the twelve books now form three words.

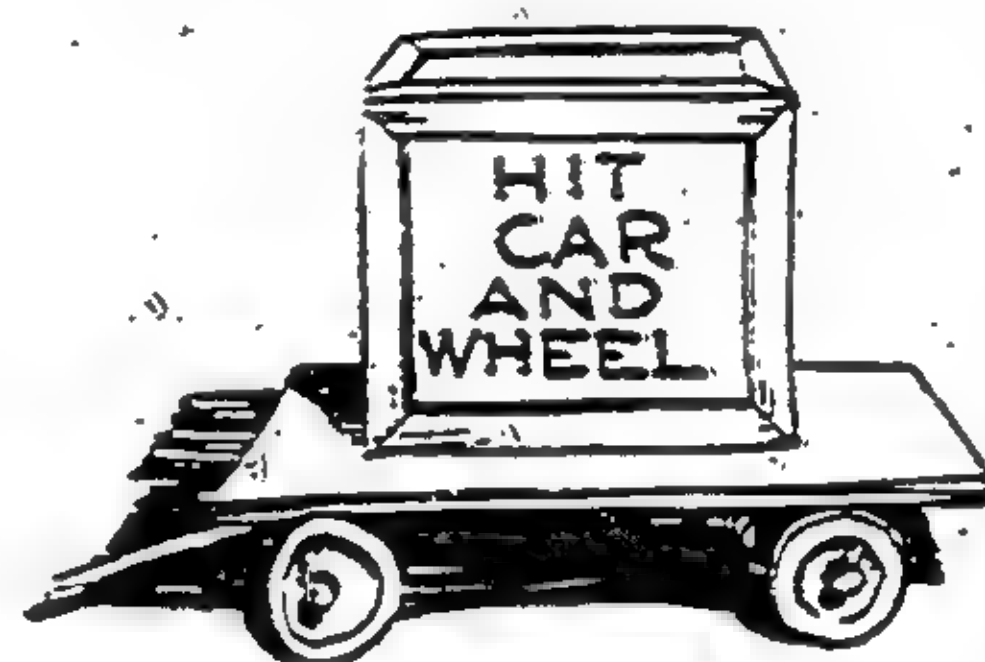
Rearrange the books so that they will spell a single word which will tell what sort of a work the books represent.

WORDOGRAM

The words in the Wordogram will form a readable sentence if the present spaces are disregarded and new ones are inserted at the proper points.

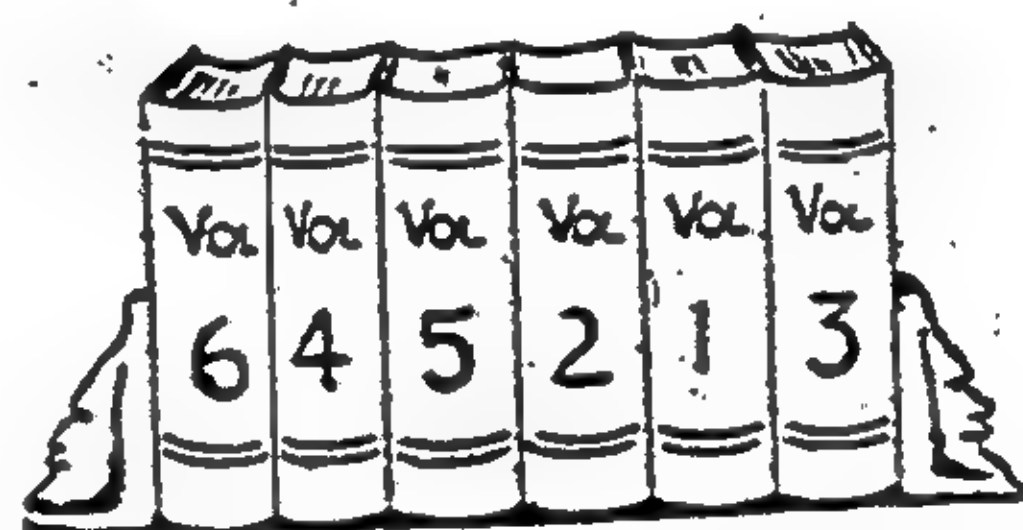
WHOA RET HE SEE AGE
RAND WEAL THY PER SON
ST HATS UR PASS AL LOT
HERS IN THE IRE LA TI ON
AN DAB OUT WHO MI HAVEN
OK NOW LEDGE?

REARRANGE THE LABEL



The sentence on the label of the box does not belong there, but the letters do. Rearrange the letters of those words to form a suitable statement for the box label.

SIX-BOOK POSER



The six volumes are not in their proper arrangement of 1 to 6 from left to right.

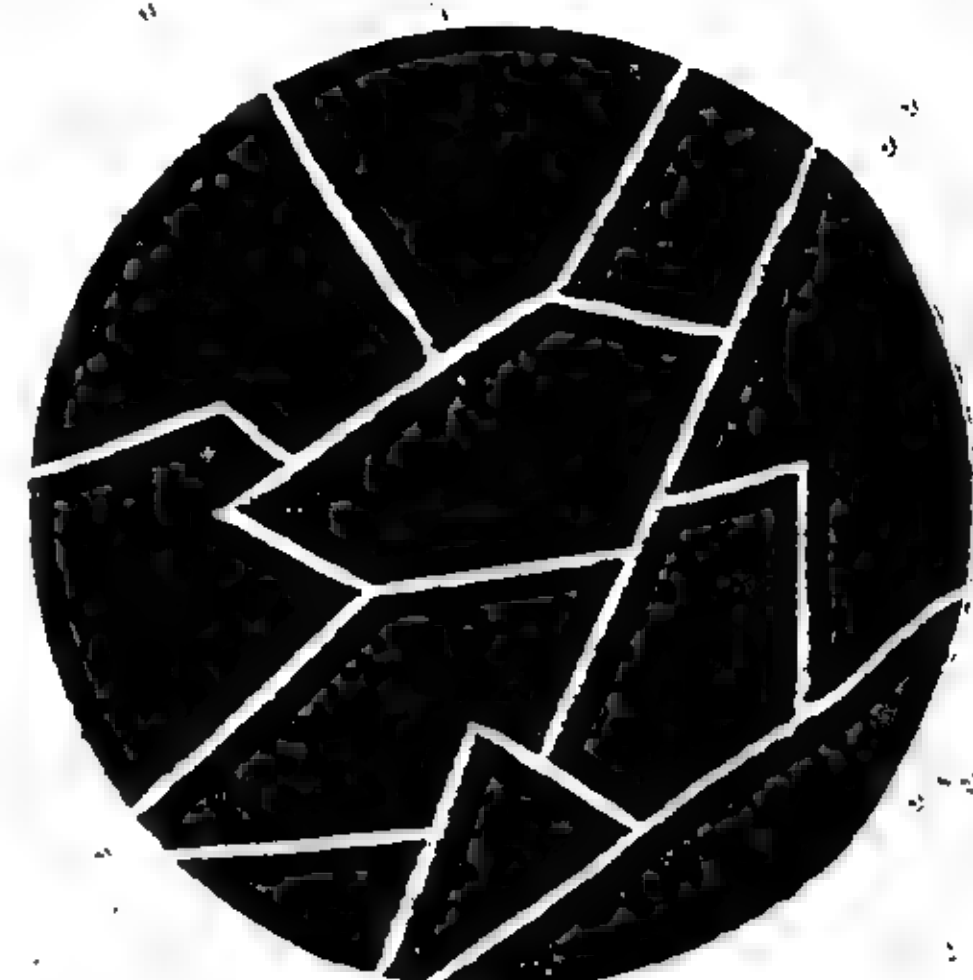
By moving two books at a time (side by side) you can, in three such moves, arrange the books in their proper order. Two books withdrawn may be inserted together at any point in the row.

SUBTRACT A LETTER

From the words below take away a letter and rearrange the remaining letters to form another word. Subtract a letter from:

1. MAY and leave Part of "to be."
2. ROUE and leave Mineral container.
3. WRATH and leave Excrecence on skin.
4. CINE MA and leave Cut into bits.
5. RICKETS and leave Hit.
6. INTEGRAL and leave Rending.
7. DETECTERS and leave Hidden.
8. INOCULATED and leave Not found.
9. SPRINGTIMES and leave Continuing steadily.
10. REALIZATIONS and leave Convert to doctrine of reason.

PUZZLE ANSWERS



HIDDEN TREES

1. Fir.
2. Oak.
3. Palm.
4. Cedar.
5. Pine.

A PUZZLER

NEWFOUNDLAND

DIAGONAL
VINEGAR
LEAFLET
FURROWS
CRABBED
PRAYERS
MUNDANE
AMERICA



THE BALANCED SCALES

It is obvious that if three cubes and three spheres are removed from each side the scales will still balance therefore, two cubes weigh the same as three spheres. Then if all (eight) cubes are placed on one side it will take twelve sphere on the other balance.

CHARACTERISTIC INITIALS

1. Fu Manchu.
2. Sherlock Holmes.
3. Uriah Heep.
4. Peter Pan.
5. Edmond Dantes.

WORDOGRAM

Who are these eager and wealthy persons that surpass all others in their elation and about whom I have no knowledge?

REARRANGE THE LABEL

HANDLE WITH CARE

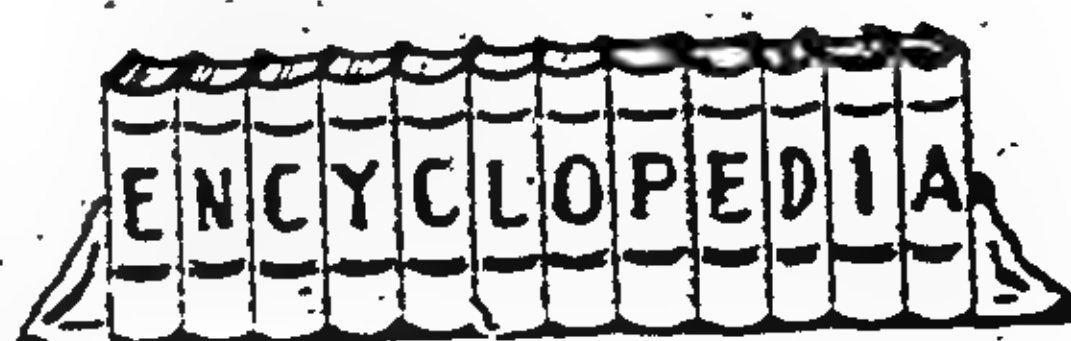
SIX-BOOK POSER

- Move 1 and 3 together between 6 and 4.
- Move 6 and 1 together between 5 and 2.
- Move 1 and 2 together from right to left of row.

SUBTRACT A LETTER

1. Am; 2. Ore; 3. Wart; 4. Mince; 5. Strike; 6. Tearing; 7. Secured; 8. Unlocated; 9. Persisting; 10. Rationalize.

TWELVE-BOOK PUZZLE



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thrill of all will be the
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can become the proud
owner of one of these
glamorously superb

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GENEROUS
ALLOWANCE

FOR YOUR

TRADE-IN UNIT

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the evidence of satisfac-
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Vauxhall Home Leave
Plan of Purchase
Relieved of all worries
you use your car at
Home. Hand it back to
Vauxhall in London and
it will be shipped to
Hong Kong.
You will be pleased with

YOUR

VAUXHALL



ESTHER COOPER

Now, Peter Pig decided
He would like to take a trip.
He, donned his Sunday clothes,
and put
His old ones in a grip.

DRINK
RICKSHA
BRAND **TEA**

A TALE OF PETER THE PIG

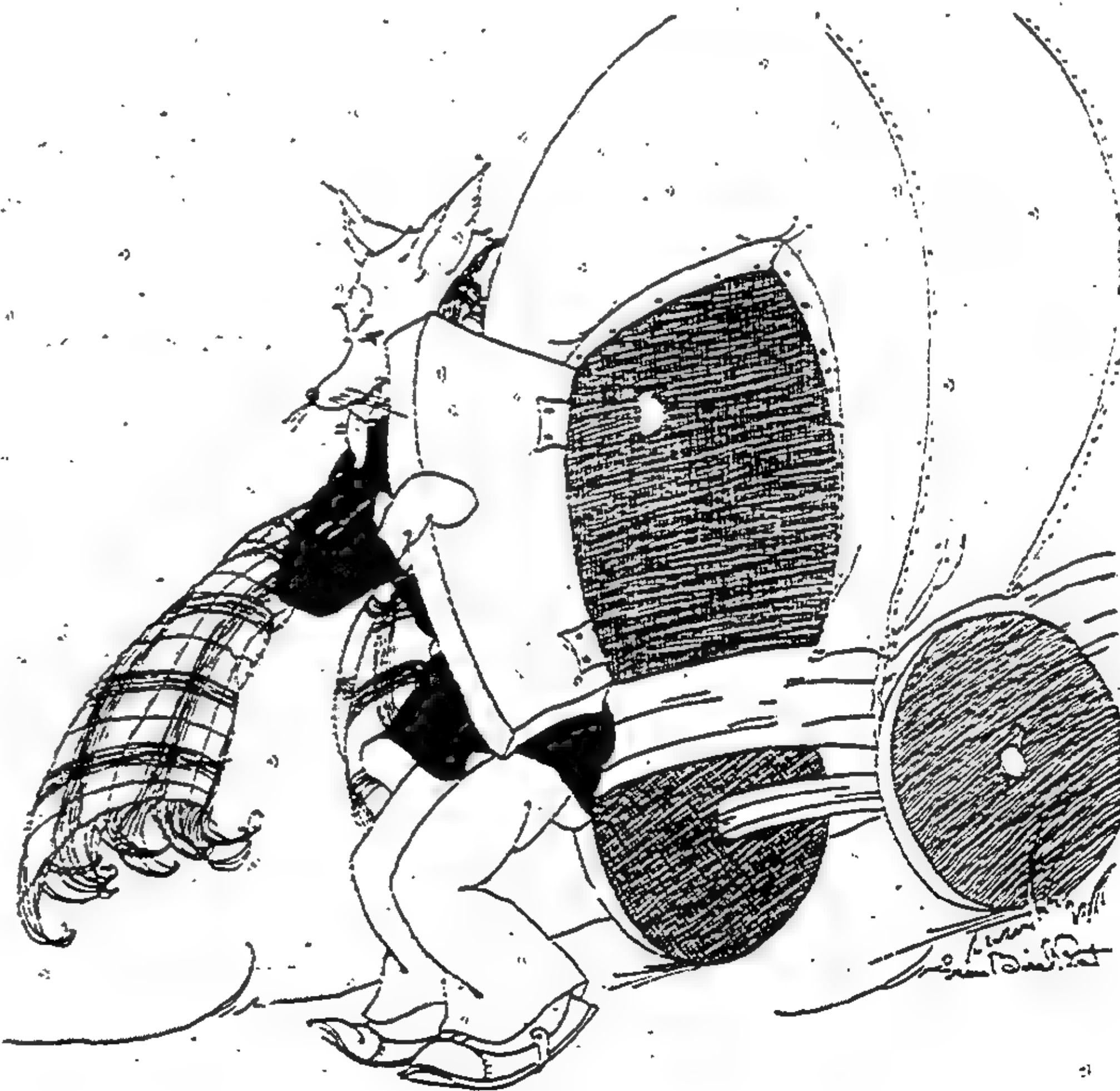
He went out on the highway,
Feeling very full of pride,

And stood beneath a pepper
tree,
And tried to thumb a ride.

A Farmer Wolf, inside a truck,
Stopped with a crafty grin,
And bowed, and opened up the
door.
And Peter scrambled in.

Inside were fifteen little pigs,
Who'd started out to roam,
And now they wished, or very
much!
That they were safe at home.

Sobbed one, "The farmer's going



To a city in the east,
To sell us in the market-house
For folks' Thanksgiving feast."
And just as Peter Pig turned
pale,
Without one word to utter,
A wheel went rolling off the
truck,
And spilled them in the gutter.
Then every pig ran home as fast

As could be, for his age.
And Farmer Wolf stood in the
street
And danced and howled with rage.
And when Thanksgiving Day
came round,
Then Peter felt a host
Of thankfulness that he was
still
A pig, and not a roast.



Giblet pie is one of the most tasty of dishes, and it has about it the charm of an old-world Christmas.

HERE are two seasonable recipes which will help to make your Christmas dinner parties a success.

Giblet Pie

INGREDIENTS:

2 sets of chickens' giblets
Flour, pepper and salt
1 onion; Water
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bladebone steak
About 1 lb. flaky pastry
Yolk of egg and milk for glaze.

CLEANSE the giblets thoroughly by soaking them in cold water with salt. Drain them well. It is important to remember to remove the gall-bag from the liver, and the inside of the gizzard, together with the inner lining.

Cut up the steak. Flour both the steak and the giblets, season them well and put them into a casserole. Add the onion (minced), cover them with water, put on the lid and simmer them gently in the oven for two or three hours until tender.

Arrange the steak and giblets in a pie-dish, with just a little of the gravy, and leave them to get cold. There should be sufficient meat and giblets to fill the dish.

Roll out the pastry thickly and cut a piece to fit the top of the pie-dish. Then roll out the trimmings and cut a strip to fit round the rim of the dish. Damp this and cover the pie, trim and decorate the edge and put a tassel and some leaves of pastry on the top.

Make a hole at each end to allow the steam to escape, brush the pie with beaten yolk of egg mixed with milk, and put it into a hot oven to bake.

It will take about half an hour to cook. Serve the pie hot, with the remainder of the gravy.

Flaky Pastry

INGREDIENTS:

DRINK
RICKSHA
BRAND **TEA**

PASTRY AT CHRISTMAS TIME

$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. flour; A pinch of salt
Water to mix; 6 ozs. lard
5 ozs. margarine

TO make a good flaky pastry, first sieve the flour with a pinch of salt and rub in the margarine.

Add a little cold water and mix the flour with it to a stiff paste.

Place the lard on a well-floured board and roll it out into thin pieces. Put them on one side.

Now roll out the pastry fairly thinly and to a square shape, turn it on to the other side and place the lard all over it, pressing it down lightly. Fold the sides to the middle each way, then fold the pastry in half again. (It is now folded in eight).

If the pastry is made the day before it is baked it will be improved. It should be kept in a cool place and covered with a piece of buttered paper to keep it from getting dry.

Mince Pies

INGREDIENTS:

FOR THE PASTRY

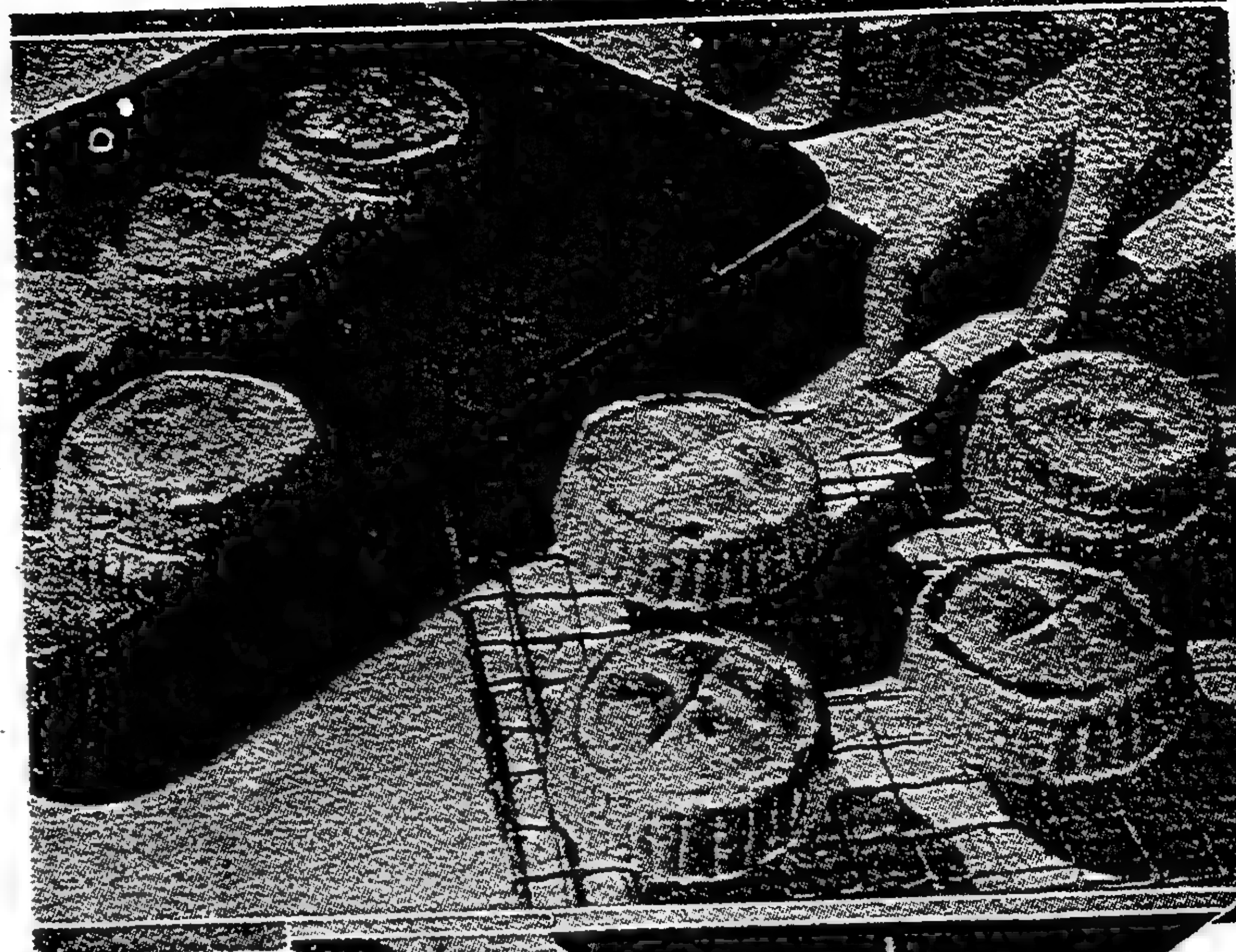
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. flour; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. lard
 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. margarine
Pinch of salt; Water to mix
Mincemeat as required

ADD a pinch of salt to the flour and sieve it. Rub in the margarine till it is quite fine.

Gradually add cold water and mix the ingredients to a stiff paste. It should be just pliable.

Well flour the pastry board and rolling-pin and press the lard into thin pieces. Roll out the pastry to an oblong shape, and then turn it over.

Divide the lard into three equal portions. Spread one portion over the surface of the rolled-out



The Yuletide Festivities Would Not Be Complete Without Mince Pie. If You Use This Recipe You Will Find Them Are Specially Delicious



Put about one dessertspoonful of mincemeat on half the rounds of pastry.

pastry. Fold into three and roll it out again the same way as before.

Turn it over and spread on it another portion of lard and fold into three. Repeat this once again, when all the lard will be used.

Roll out the pastry and stamp it into rounds, allowing two rounds for each mince pie.

Put about one dessertspoonful of mincemeat on to half of the rounds and brush the edges with water. Then cover them with

the remaining rounds and press the edges together lightly. Mark the sides of the pies with the edge of a knife.

Stand them on a baking sheet, and glaze the tops with milk. Make two little cuts on the top of each pie.

Place them in a hot oven, and bake them for about twenty minutes. When cooked they should be well risen and golden brown. Place them on a sieve to cool. Dredge well with castor sugar and serve.

HAUNTED HOUSE OF VASSILEVSKY ISLAND

(Continued from Page 18)

More than ever amazed, the young men went to P.'s room. Sure enough, there he was—sleeping and snoring heavily.

"And yet she says he actually went to bed at two o'clock yesterday afternoon," said the leader, and, with another willing helper, he shook the sleeper like one shakes an apple on the top-most bough, until P. reluctantly opened his eyes. "What on earth are you fellows doing in my room?" he grumbled.

They explained the reason, and, now awakened to some purpose, P. sat up and stared at them uncomprehendingly. At last the gravity of their story gradually dawned on him.

"Then it was yesterday that we planned to go to the House on the Island?" He was assured that it was so. "And you come and tell me some cock and bull story about finding C. half murdered, and, that there were evidences of two people having eaten together..... Are we all mad? I've never stirred out of this place—my landlady can prove it. I forgot the appointment, but I remember I felt curiously tired, and had a sort of drugged sensation, when I came back to lunch; in fact I became so drowsy that I went to bed. I

never gave a thought to C.—or to any haunted house, so if there were two people, the second one wasn't me."

There for the moment the matter ended. P.'s 28-hour alibi was provided by his landlady and her servant, and also by a friend who had called later in the evening.

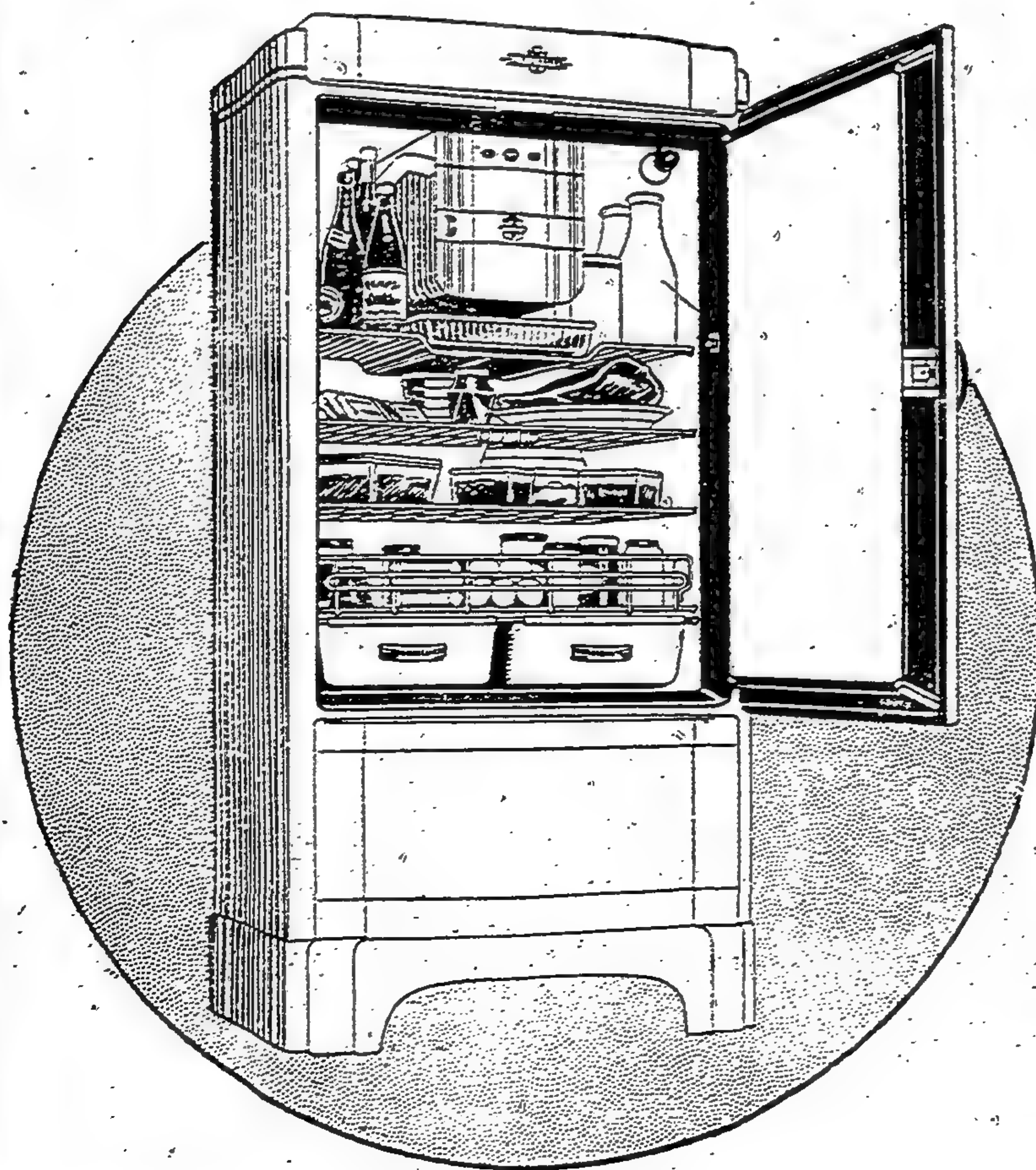
On the other hand C.'s incredible adventure was confirmed by the condition of the room, his own pitiable state, and the statements of eye-witnesses, but, strangest of all, the imprints on his throat could never have been made by the spatulated fingers on P.'s rather pudgy little hand.

The mystery of this authentic story of the supernatural has remained unsolved. No clue was ever found to the identity of C.'s supper companion. When shortly afterwards, the owner of the House on the Island decided to pull it down, not one stone was left of the ill-omened place with its evil entities and unsolved mysteries.

DRINK
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HER?"**

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THE HAUNTED HOUSE OF VASSILEVSKY ISLAND

THIS ghost story provided one of the greatest sensations of pre-war St. Petersburg. It concerns a haunted house on the Vassilevsky Island, opposite the Nicolaevsky Bridge.

The house had been unoccupied for many years, and externally it lived up to its sinister reputation as "a house under some prodigious ban of excommunication." However, two students who disbelieved in any kind of superstition, and scoffed at supernatural manifestations, planned to destroy the legend of the House on the Island, by passing the night there, hold-

A REAL LIFE GHOST STORY BY PRINCESS MARINA CHAVCHAVADZE

ing themselves in readiness to tackle any ghost bold enough to appear.

The owner of the property, anxious to restate the house as a selling, or letting, proposition, gladly gave permission to the ghost seers to stay as long as they liked. He also made arrangements to have a good fire lighted in what was known as the "haunted" room, besides supplying two chairs and a table, as the friends proposed having supper before beginning to "watch out." Everything was soon in readiness. Provisions and wine were sent in, and a supply of candles to lighten the darkness completed the equipment for the night.

C. arrived punctually at the time fixed for the meeting. Apart from his mulish obstinacy where the supernatural was concerned he was a nice young fellow, who entered thoroughly into the spirit of the adventure on this cold rainy autumn evening. As he liked his comforts, he was cheered by the thought that the vigil would not take place in a fireless room. He, therefore, unlocked the front door with pleasurable anticipation, not only of being thrilled, but also of being warmed.

The hall was in darkness, and when C.'s electric torch flashed here and there, he understood how different empty houses feel at night.

Upstairs, someone was singing, and C. recognised his friend's voice in company with a curiously distorted echo. "Keeping up his spirits," said C. to himself, but suddenly the Echo set in movement something definitely malignant; the house be-

came a receptacle for an immense restless power, and C. sensed an imperishable record of incarnate evil.

Approaching himself for too vivid an imagination, C. went upstairs and opened the door of the room whence the voice, and the Echo, proceeded.

A fire of snips' timber blazed on the open hearth, and names of red, blue, green and faint blue danced and pursued each other upward in a carnivalesque riot of colour. The table was set for supper, and lighted candles in heavy candlesticks stood on a marble buffet—a relic of the house's former state. In this aspect, the room had nothing approaching the supernatural about it.

Taking off his heavy overcoat, C. greeted P., and asked him how long he had been waiting.

"I didn't know you meant to steal a march on me," he said.

"Merely my fancy," answered P. "I wanted to get in touch with the Unseen."

"And—did you?"

"Yes—and no." And he began to sing in a voice lacking all youth and clearness, the sound clearing the warm wood-scented air like a meteor. C., hitherto only accustomed to hearing P. sing students' songs with an occasional excerpt from musical comedy, was by turns attracted and repelled. He even experienced a vague feeling of panic; for a moment it seemed as if a devil were making music.

With something of an effort he said: "Well, let's have supper. By the way, in what language were you singing? . . . I couldn't understand a word of it."

"Naturally not," and P. smiled at him across the table—a wicked cynical smile, which perplexed C. This might be P. who sang and smiled, but it certainly was not the familiar light-hearted P. of the daily round. He said nothing, and tried to think and act normally, but from time to time he looked at his friend, who was enjoying his supper with a healthy appetite, while C. ate sparingly, and drank only a couple of glasses of wine.

At last P. began to talk about the house. "I wonder what we shall see," he said, "don't you think it is a little presumptuous to disturb well buried evil out of senseless curiosity? Perhaps this house belongs to one who is adored through fear and whose strength lies in destruction, who might resent our intrusion."

"But you were the first to propose to investigate the hauntings," said C. "Have you by any chance become a convert to the religion whose god is adored through fear?"

P. threw him a dark look. "We won't discuss religion. Better by far to toast midnight in a libation to evil." He tossed off the contents of his glass, refilled it, and flung the red wine on to the merry flames. "A liba-



Mendoza

tion to evil," he cried.

Afterwards his whole personality changed, and with a snarl he turned to C. "You poor fool," he cried, "to attempt to measure your strength against those whose strength is invincible. You thought to destroy the indestructible, to uproot as easily as weeds forces whose roots are older than Time. Do you not think that you deserve punishment?" As he spoke, P. rose from his seat, still smiling his cruel, mocking smile, and C. stared at him, incapable of thought or movement, conscious only that he was a helpless prisoner of the powers of darkness.

The last thing C. remembered was P.'s tiger-like spring. His throat was seized by fingers which burnt like acid into his flesh, then darkness fell on him.

Next morning C. and P. were absent from the University, and, as they had missed a special noon-day lecture important for both, some fellow students who knew about the experiment at the haunted house decided to go and see what had become of the ghost hunters.

To their disappointment there was nothing "frightening" about the place. The silken curtains spun by successive generations of spiders waved across the windows when the door opened to admit the autumn air.

In the room on the first floor masses of cold grey ash and burnt-out candles met their eyes. Afterwards they noticed an overturned table, and broken plates and pieces of food strewn the floor, where the spilt wine looked like a stream of congealed blood.

Something lay under the debris. This was C. evidently in

a dead faint, or worse. There was no sign of P., so while two of the young men busied themselves in bringing C. round, the others hurried upstairs to see if P. was anywhere in hiding.

The rooms were empty, save for gigantic bloated spiders scuttling away in the gloom. The dust of years rose like musty incense from cracks in the boards as the searchers hurried over them, and, in the garrets, battalions of bats clung to the worm-eaten beams.

The students concluded that P. had gone suddenly mad, and had attacked C. in a moment of frenzy. There was nothing else to do but to take C. back to his home (he was now somewhat restored, but incapable of giving them any information), make inquiries at P.'s lodgings, and then, if necessary, report the affair to the police.

A closed carriage was soon in readiness, and C., looking as if he had passed the night in Hell, and not in an empty house, was restored to his family.

The next halt was at P.'s lodgings, a few street away. The inquiry as to whether he was at home instantly produced a running commentary from the landlady. "Was he at home? Yes, he was; and, judging from his appearance, likely to remain at home for the next few days." She didn't know whether too much learning or too much seeing life made anyone sleep-like the dead. "He came in at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, went straight to bed, and has not got up since. Sleeping all the time." Yes—it will be a good thing to rouse him—so far she hadn't been able to do anything with him.

(Continued on Page 20)

DRINK
RICKSHA
BRAND **TEA**



Suggestions For The Christmas Party

ONLY 16 more days to Christmas! Jack and Jill will demurely demand some sort of party—what is to be done about it?

This must be the undercurrent to many a mother's thoughts at the moment! The modern child has been analysed and allowed to bask in the limelight to such an extent that the problem of entertaining the young has become a perfect nightmare to lots of parents.

The matter can be simplified considerably if only a layer or two of the artificial veneer of "modern ideas" and over-psychologising is scraped off, and the child itself is allowed to appear in its natural colours.

First of all, you would be surprised at the strong sense of possessiveness that Jack and Jill have about their own domain. The majority of children much prefer to entertain their small friends in their own surroundings. It gives them a sense of security and familiarity... and this leads us to another point—the actual value of that phrase, "to entertain."

Future Hostesses

It is all too easy to let the young idea develop along its own lines, leaving all necessary discipline to school authorities. This is a mistake. We live in an age of noise and frantic haste, but surely a little time can be spared for those details of conduct which make all the difference between graciousness and poise, and the complete lack of either. This party-business provides an excellent opportunity to tactfully plant in our infants the seeds of the gracious host and hostess of to-morrow!

Matters are simplified if there is a large enough room conveniently available for a picture show. Many mothers hesitate to investigate this form of entertainment, thinking that it is both expensive and extremely upsetting for the interior decorations! It is not really. This modern outfit is compact, and only needs a power-point and a moderately large slab of plain wall-space on which to hang the screen. The children sit quite happily in a

semi-circle, on any kind of chairs or stools, and it is amazing to observe that they get far more enjoyment out of ancient comics and even scenery exhibited in the home, than out of the most exotic programmes at a picture theatre.

Then, between pictures, Jack and Jill offer their little guests a little light refreshment. (If you have an eye to the aftermath, choose sweets without paper wrapping!) In spite of the frequent consumption of snacks, you would be surprised at the appetites that develop during two or three hours of this kind of entertainment; also, at the rapidity with which the time goes.

Games And Competitions

Then there is the "party proper." This implies a number of set games and competitions, with prizes. The acquisitive instinct is a very powerful one and, up to the age of 12 or 13, it appears in its naked glory, not veiled and white-washed as it is in the adult state! Little girls and boys will slave over a guessing game or a peanut hunt with a zeal which would stagger those who see them at other tasks—simply because there is a reward in store for the lucky guesser or the earnest seeker!

This type of party is very often difficult to handle. Unless there is a constant succession of games and competitions the children get bored—the little boys run amuck, and the little girls stand off and crucify each other's rocks. Of course they can be induced to play non-competitive games in between, but you will usually find that, once you have aroused that acquisitive instinct, their lust for booty cannot be assuaged except by the possibility of still another prize, or...tea. It takes an enormous number of ideas to keep a collection of young things busy for three hours!

The Food Question

The question of tea is a vexed one. We have, unfortunately, allowed things to become so complex that most mothers simply dread the thought of providing a party tea. It is absurd to think that Jack and Jill's mother allows herself to be so ridden by convention, and what Mrs. So-and-So might think, that she feels that she really must have novelty caps, and other expensive futili-

ties, which are destroyed almost immediately. Crackers... yes. They make a satisfyingly frightening noise, and surely the little odds and ends inside them, and the scrap on the outside are quite enough to give the normal child that small souvenir which is the hall-mark of a successful party.

Simple food is always advisable. One never knows about the interior economy of other people's children! And, of course, there must be a centre-piece—a grossly over-decorated cake, a snowball, or a Christmas bell. If a mother wishes to distribute little gifts it can be done simply and decoratively by building up a special centre-piece for the tea table in the form of a boat, a Christmas pie, or a cornucopia.

Many children, these days, are very fond of the minute, frank-furt-variety of sausage. These are quite wholesome, and one or two bowls of them, each sausage supplied with a cocktail-cherry stick, prove very popular as an opening number to the fact. It is a good idea to have all the cakes small—they are more easy to handle, and the ambitious consumer can encompass a much greater variety!

Jellies and fruit salads are not very popular; perhaps it is the difficulty of coping with a plate and spoon when, as often as not, tea is absorbed in the approved "buffet" mode adopted these days. Ice cream usually goes well, especially if offered in cones or wafers—this method, besides being very acceptable to the guests, commends itself highly to the hostess.

The Language Of The Bells

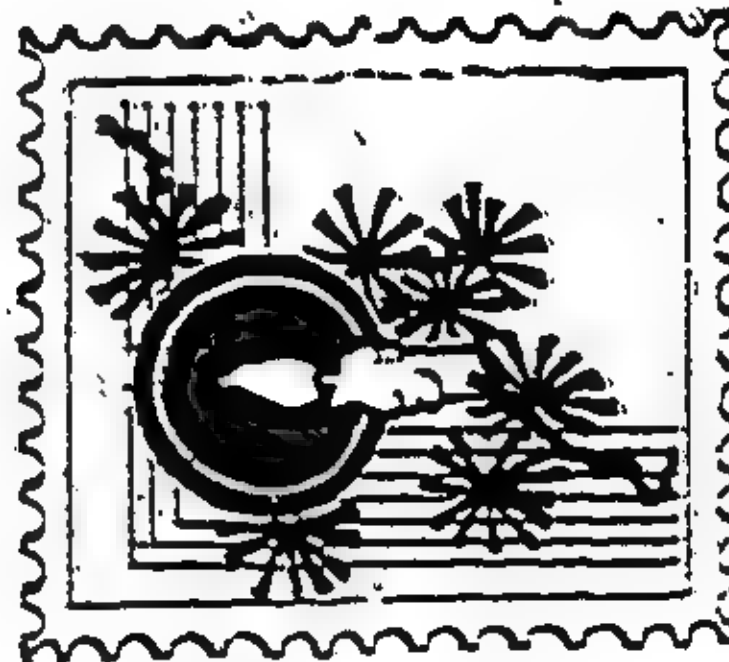
Hear the clear, sweet chimes of evening.

Ling'ring in the fragrant air,
Then like spirits fading—vanish,
Leaving echoes rich and rare.

Trem'ulous, sad, and direful tolling.
Throbbing strains, now loud,
now low,
Tell of loving hearts nigh broken,
Sobbing tales of grief and woe.

See the sky is leaden-laden!
And their quickening note of fear
Fills all hearts with swift foreboding.

That the Fire Fiend is near.
Soothing tones caress the twilight,
'Tis the church bells softly calling,
Calling faithful hearts to worship
With their mellow tones enthral-



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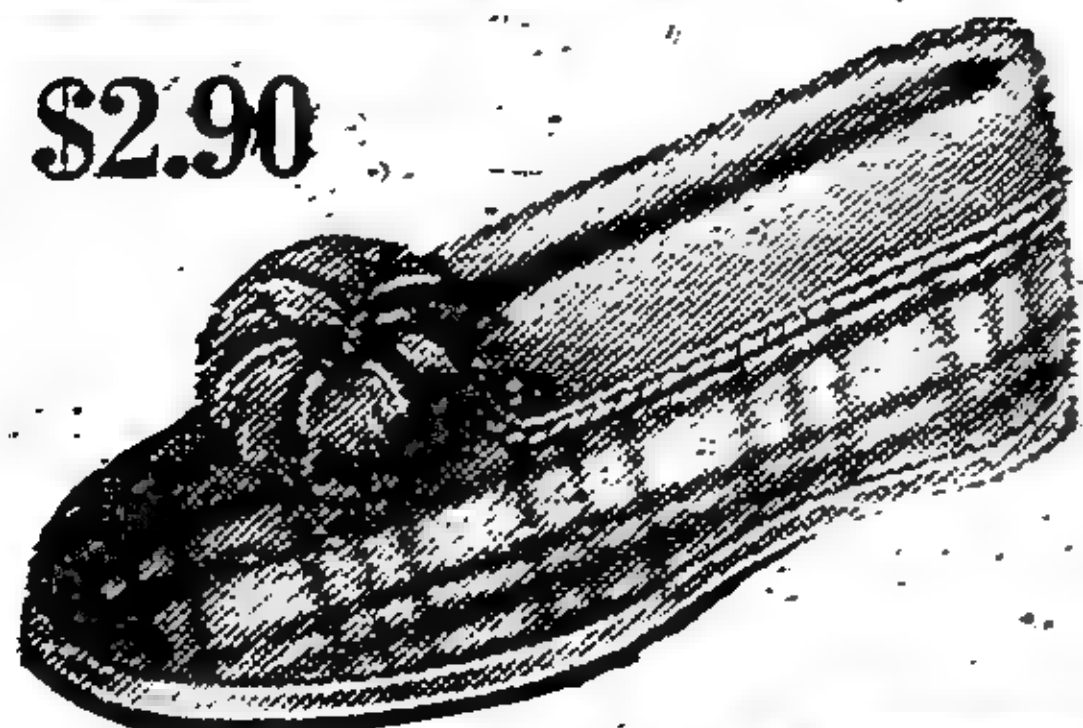
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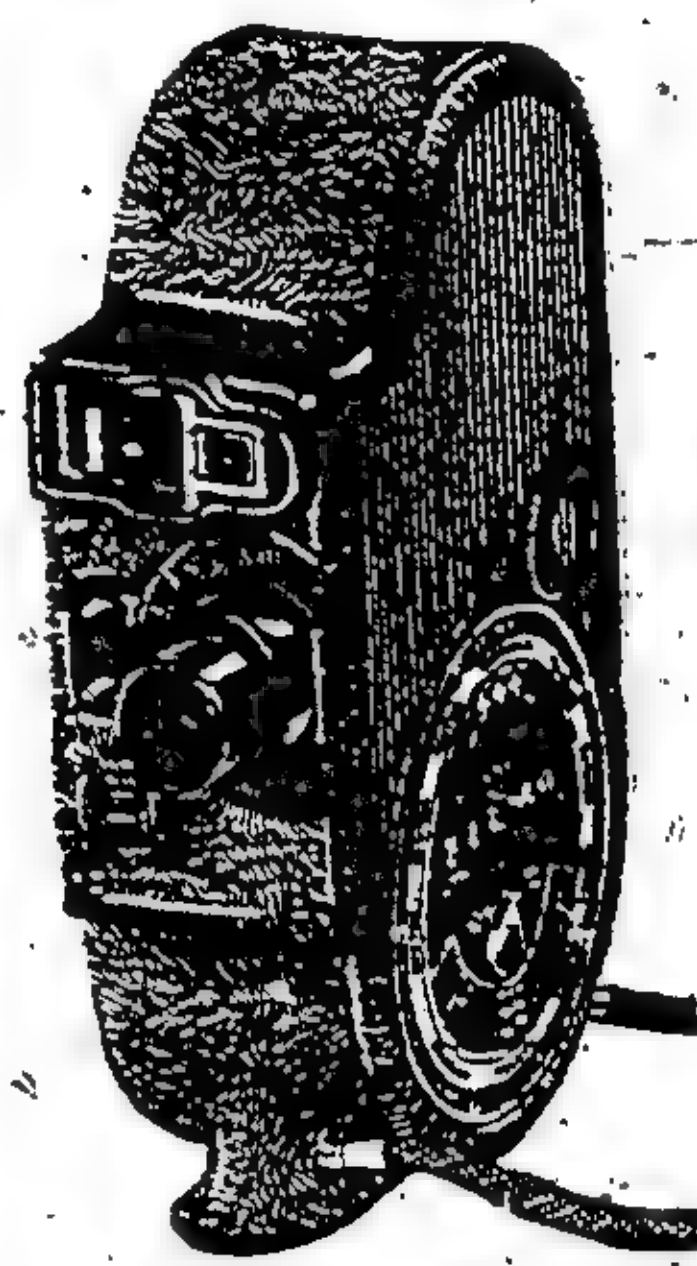
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SHORT STORY
BY COLIN
DAVEY

ANNE liked men tough — or fancied she did. Rodney was gentle and considerate by nature, and though she was devoted to him there were times when his kindness brought out the devil in her.

Until to-night it seemed that his patience and good nature knew no bounds. To-night, nothing could have been "tougher" than the word he had used to her, or rougher than the way he had banged out of the house.

At first the echo of the banged front door excited her. Then she began to wonder. Where would he go? For how long would he go? To whom would he go?

RODNEY was no coward, nor was he a particularly weak character. His failing was that he always saw too far ahead. Perhaps there were too many tradespeople or diplomats in his ancestry. He always balanced the debit and credit side before any transaction, and always foresaw every complication which might follow a hasty decision.

He did not mind a fight; but he realised that both victor and vanquished were bound to suffer considerable discomfort from it, and that the outcome rarely settled the question in point: all it settled was who was the best fighter.

It was the same with an argument. The victor seldom convinced his opponent of anything except the fact that the other was a more facile and imaginative liar than he.

On a score of occasions he had been on the point of leaving Anne — not for good, but for long enough to make her repent — but on each occasion he had found himself like the schoolmaster who picks up the cane and says: "This is going to hurt me more than you."

So on the occasions when he longed to say, "All right. I'm off. You can go to blazes!" all it meant was that he would go to blazes, and Anne would stay in comfort.

STANDING outside the front door that early morning with a biting wind whipping at his dress trousers and a fine, icy rain stinging his face, Rodney thought of all this again.

Already he was shivering and wondering where on earth to go. There were few hotels which he knew where he was certain of comfort. But he could hardly go to any of them at five in the morning. He was well known at all, and could imagine the lifted eyebrow with which he would be greeted in such circumstances.

The sound of a taxi in the distance raised his spirits, but immediately afterwards he

heard it turn and go grinding off in another direction. He had leaned out from the shelter of the doorway and a small cascade of icy rain dripped from above on to the back of his neck. He cursed and shivered, and half turned to ring the front door bell. He was tired and suffering from acute indigestion, and it was not much past the hour when most men die.

His morale was about as pulpy as his sodden dress shoes. What was the good of it? Tomorrow or the next day he would be forced to capitulate. Why not now, before he caught pneumonia?

To own defeat, and go back to Anne meant a continuation of petty annoyances and misery. But wasn't that better than a frightful chill, days of boredom, and a prodigal's return in a few days' time? If only he had somewhere to go. But there was nowhere. With a groan he turned back to the bell.

AND what might you be, doin' of?"

Rodney turned to find a policeman at his elbow.

"Standing outside my own front door. Isn't it obvious?"

"And what might your name be?" asked the constable, looking Rodney up and down.

"Colston."

"Well, this 'ere residence is the property of the viscount 'Artington if you want to know."

"I'm perfectly aware of that. He's a friend of mine. He lends me the house sometimes."

"Ho, does 'e? Was you wanting to get in, sir? Mislead your key, perhaps?"

"No. I don't want to get in. I've just come out. I want to go to an hotel. Unfortunately there aren't any taxis."

The constable jerked his head towards the upstairs windows. "Anybody else staying in there?"

"No, no one. I mean none of the family. There's my wife, of course."

"Ow long's she been in bed?"

"About a quarter of an hour. I should think."

"And though the 'ouse 'as been lent you by 'is lordship, and your wife's been in bed this last quarter of an hour, you've packed yer bag and yer going off to a 'otel." The policeman scratched his chin. "Don't seem right to me," he mused. Then brightly he added, "Not 'ad a tiff with the missus, 'ave yer?"

"Of course not," replied Rodney hotly. "If you've nothing else to do but interfere with other people, at least there's no need to be impertinent. Why can't you mind your own business, or blow that whistle and get me a taxi? That would be some use."

THE constable stroked his chin again. "I ain't at all sure but what you ain't my business," he remarked thought-

fully. "If you 'aven't 'ad a tiff with your missus."

"I've told you. I'm going to an hotel. Why is my business?"

"If you've no objection, I think I'll just 'ave a peep in that there bag."

"Why should you? I tell you it contains clothes — nothing else."

"It's either that or ringing this 'ere bell. 'Ow do I know the clothes are yours? Yes. 'Ow do I know you 'aven't pinched 'em? If your missus 'as only been in bed a quarter of an hour, she won't be asleep yet. I think I'll give 'er a tinkle. Then she can come down and identify you."

"No. You can't do that."

The thought of himself, now drenched and miserable, gaining admission to his wife under escort of the police was too terrible to contemplate. Anne would tell the story for months!

The officer lifted his hand to the bell push, and had just touched it before Rodney snatched at his arm and tore his hand away.

"'Ere, what's all this?" demanded the constable indignantly.

"You can't ring that bell," croaked Rodney in panic.

"Ho, can't I? You just try to stop me, and then see what 'appens to you. I'll arrest you for 'inderin' an officer in the pursuance of 'is dooty. Then you'll see what." On which he blew himself up to his full stature of dignity.

Rodney slipped quickly between the officer and the door, and faced about with the desperation of a man in a trap. Before him stood physical violence and the might of the law, but behind him lay months of persecution and ridicule. "I'm hanged if you'll ring that bell," he growled.

"That's just where you make your mistake, cully," said the policeman grimly, licking his lips. "I'm going to ring that bell, and I warn you if you resists or 'inders me I'll charge you. You'll get a fortnight in

the cooler then."

"A fortnight in prison?"

"Maybe more. The magistrates is very 'ot on those sort of cases these days. Maybe three weeks. Now, out o' my way."

THERE weeks!" A strange light dawned in Rodney's eyes. It was the look of an artist who, suddenly inspired, sees that haystacks are not yellow at all, but composed of violet lozenges with green stripes. Not only was it a light of inspiration, but of joy and hope and a sudden, reckless courage.

He stepped back half a pace, dabbed out with what is known in ring parlance as a "hooky left," and as the policeman flinched, smashed his right fist full into the officer's face.

As he ran he was conscious of two exquisite sensations: the thrill of having broken a policeman's nose and the joy of having done exactly the right thing at the right time.

At Hyde Park Corner Rodney was out of breath, and slowed to a walk. By the time he had reached the Green Park station he had recovered himself sufficiently to ask of the policeman there the way to Vinestreet. There, with the manner of a man at peace with the world, he gave himself up.

SAID Anne three weeks later: "And do you know that the night you left a great hulking ruffian with a bludgeon tried to break into the house? If a very brave policeman hadn't happened to be passing heaven knows what would have happened to me, left there all alone."

"It might have been a good thing," mused Rodney grimly. "After all, whose fault was it that you were alone?"

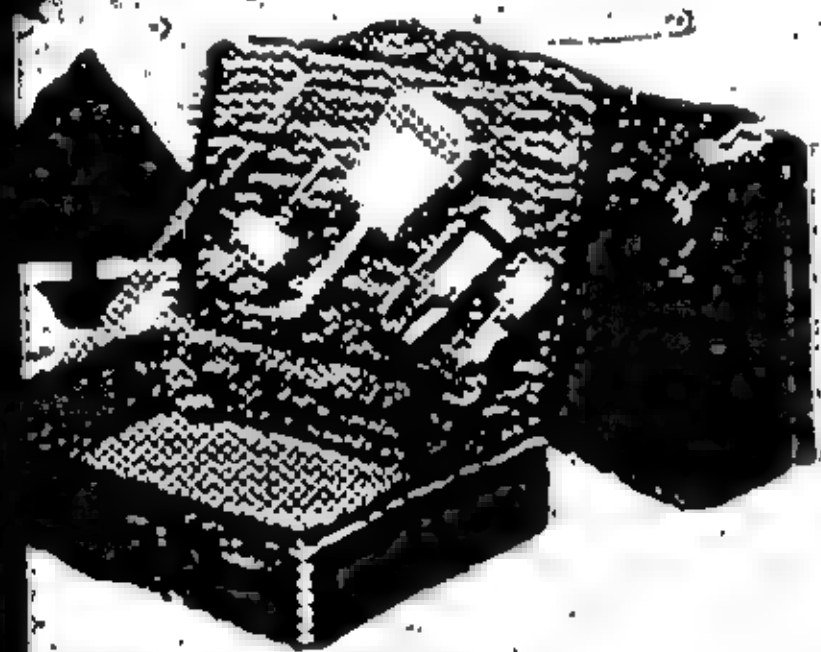
"Oh darling, mine, I know," said Anne meekly, touching his sleeve timidly with her hand.

"So long as we're quite clear on that point there's no more to be said," said Rodney magnanimously, draining his whisky and soda.



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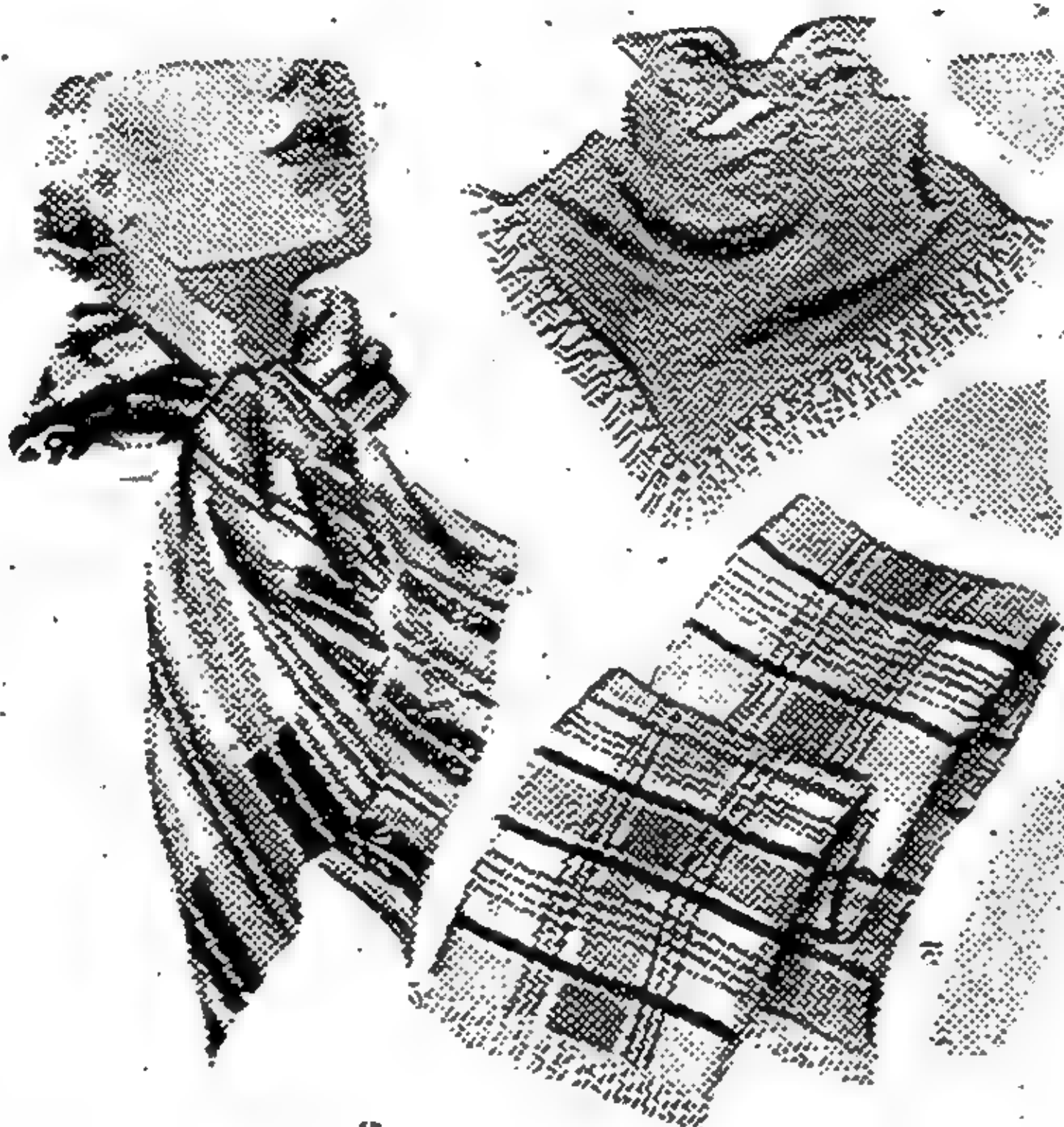
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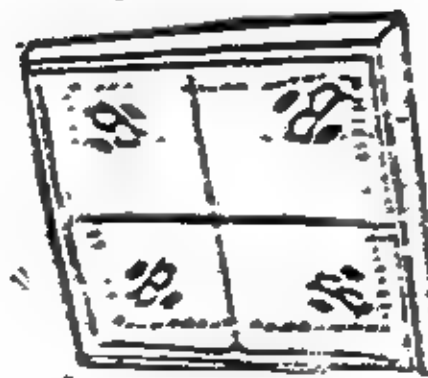
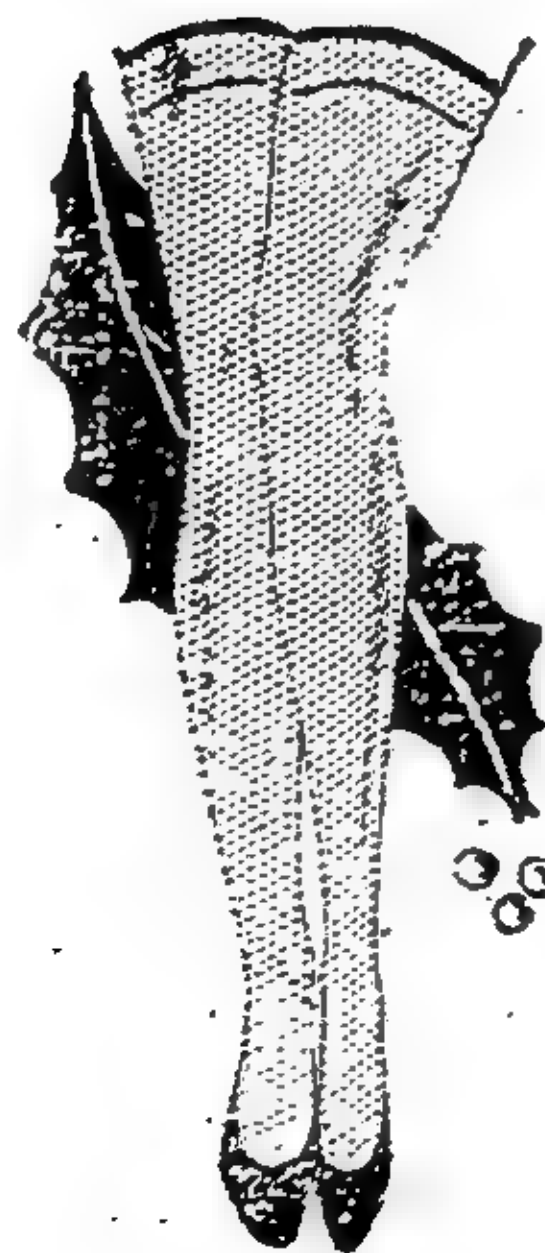


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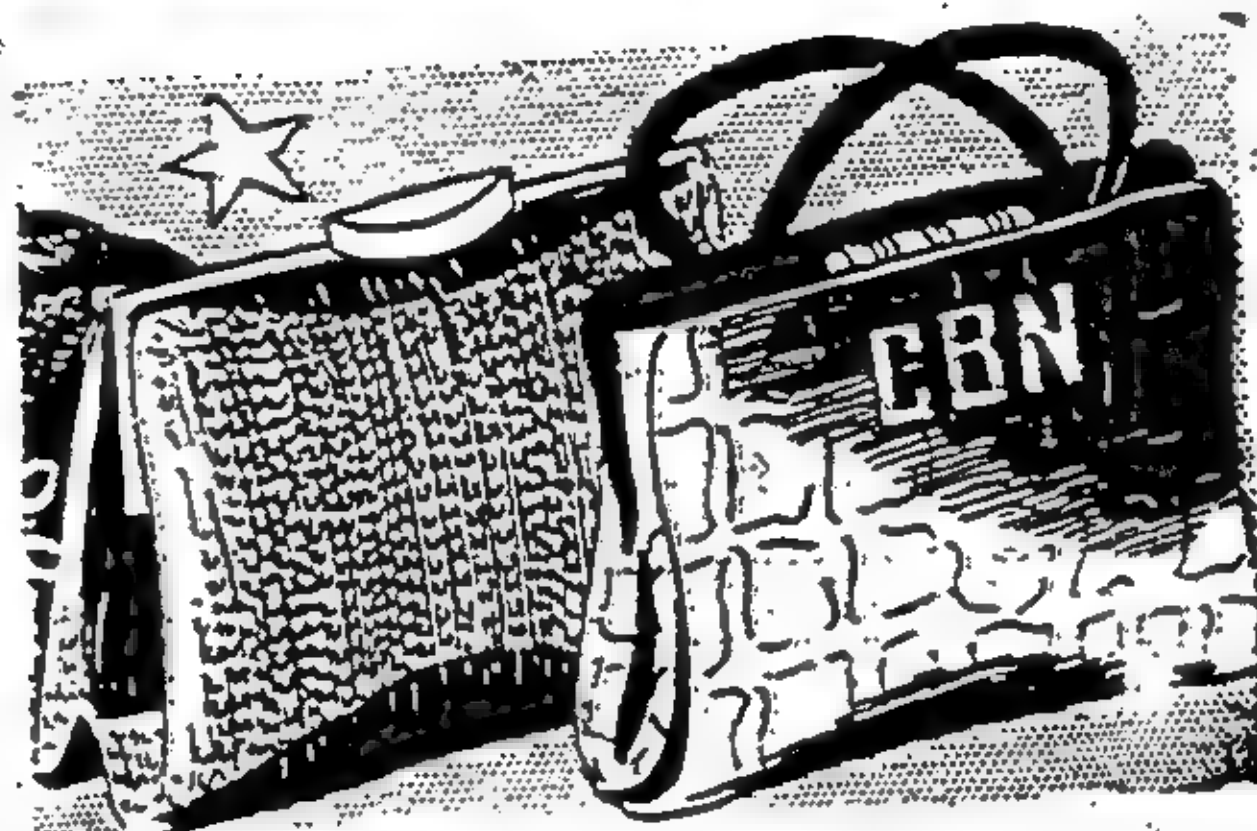
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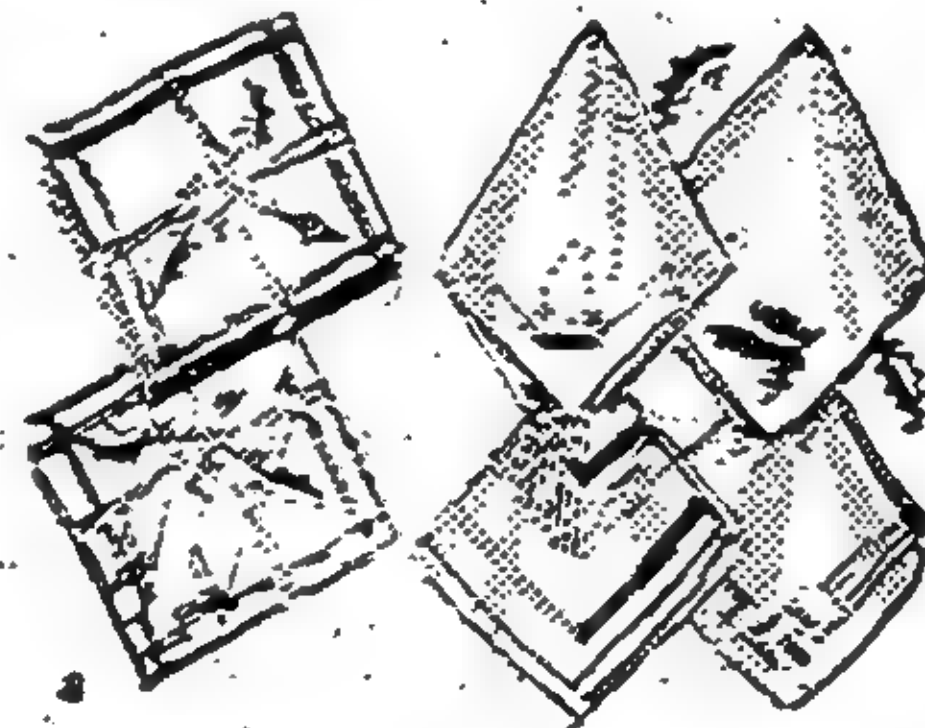
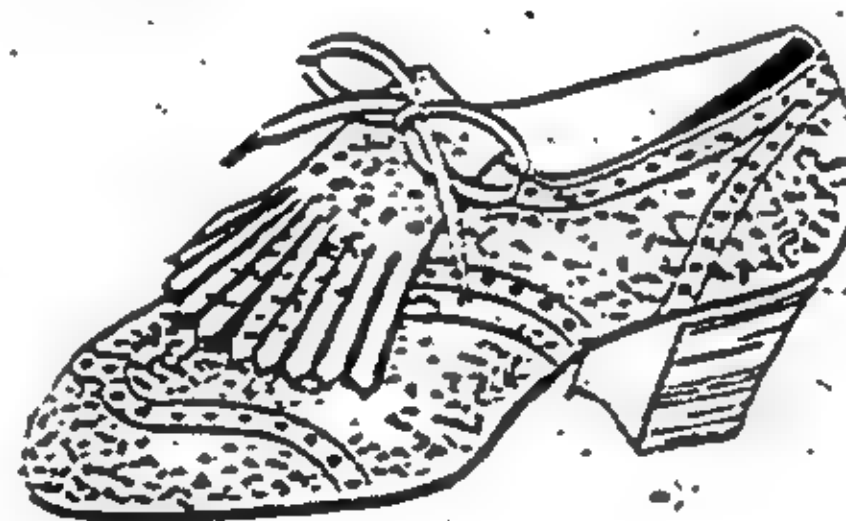
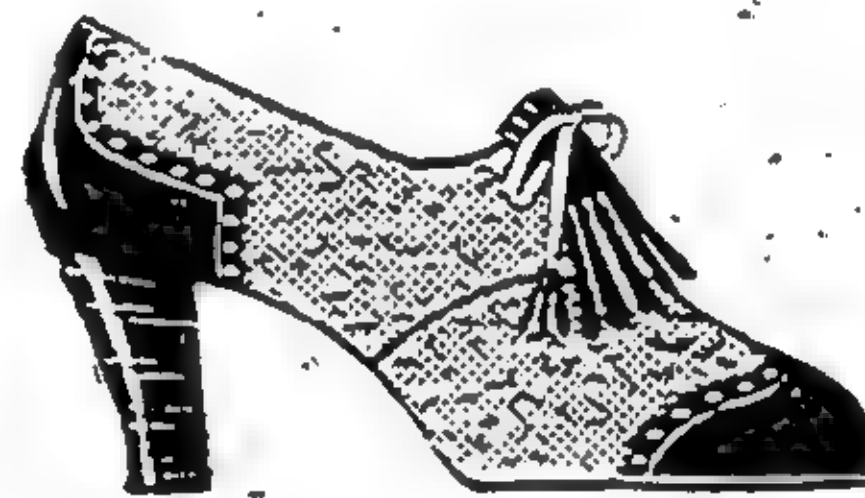
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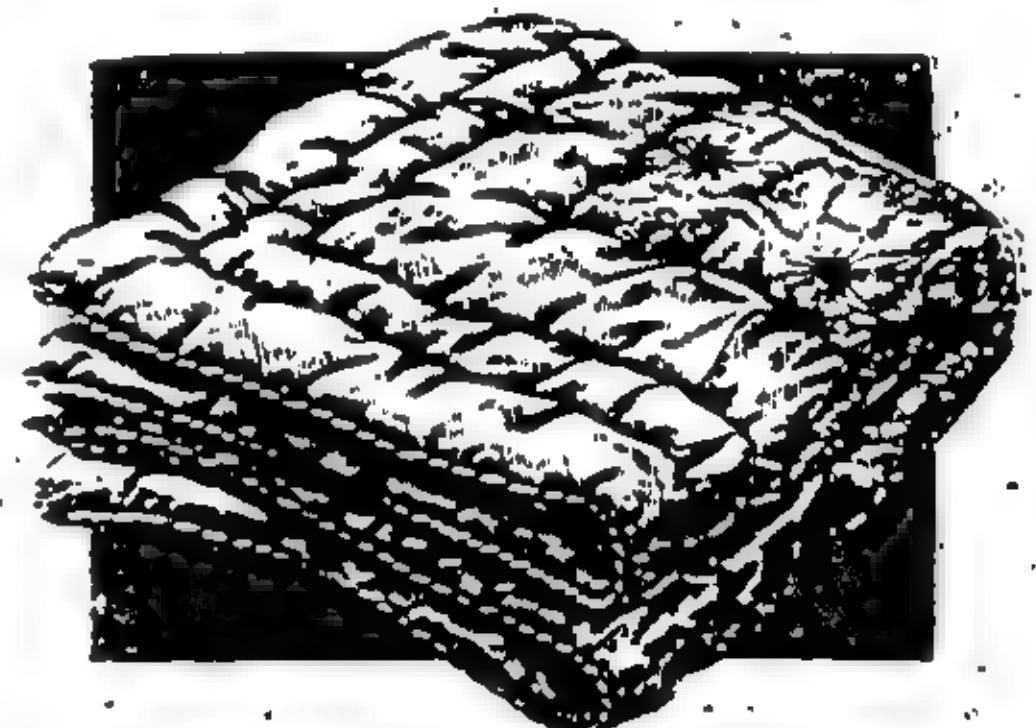
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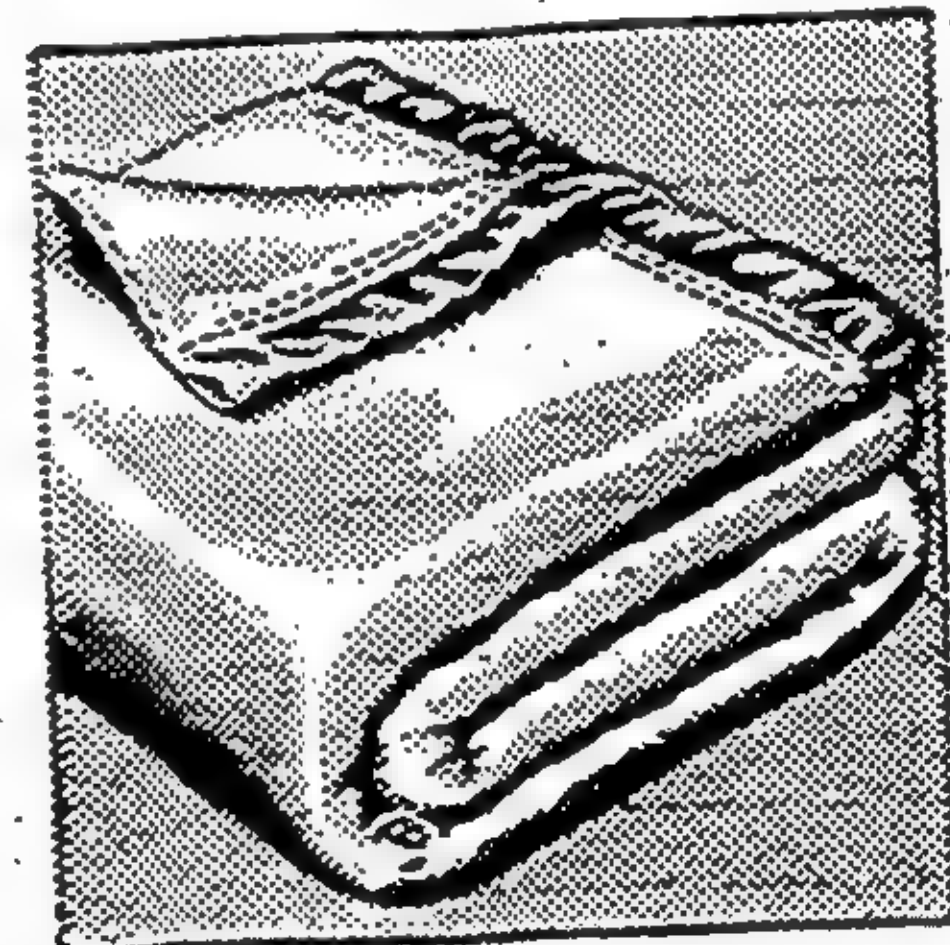
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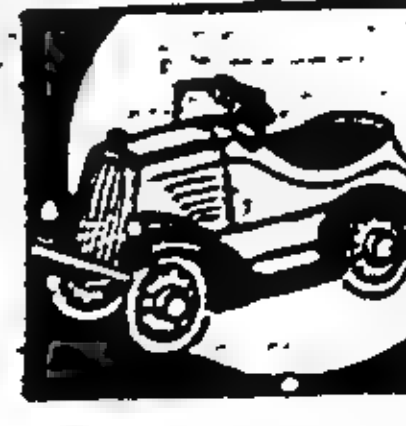
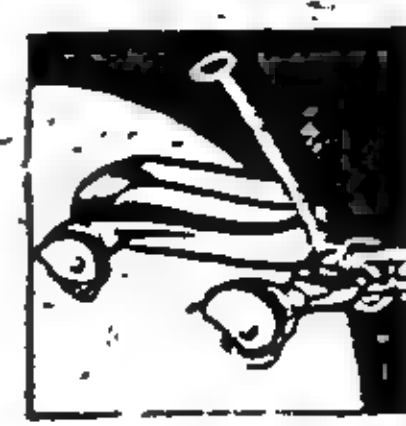
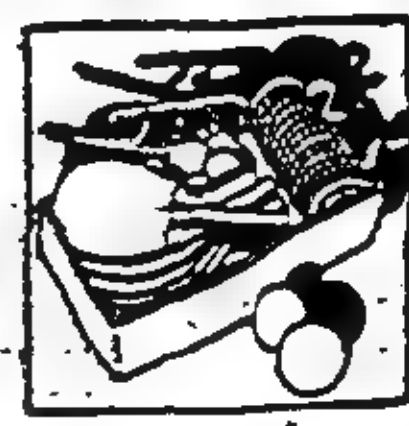
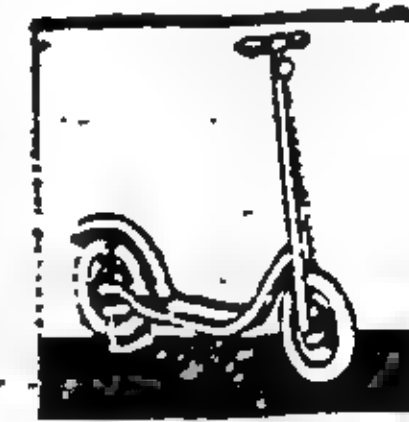
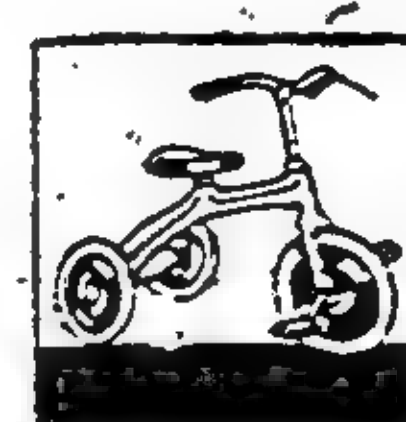
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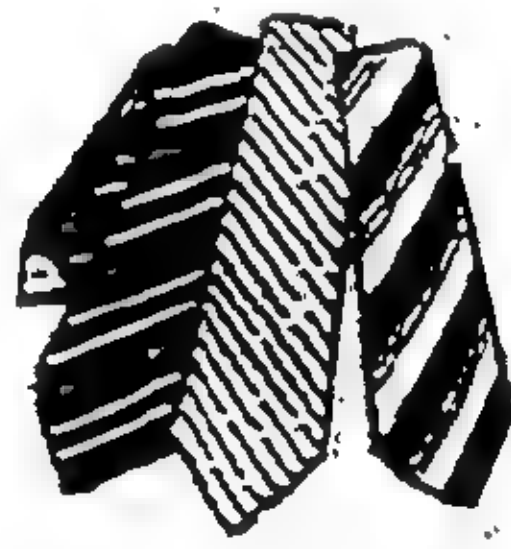
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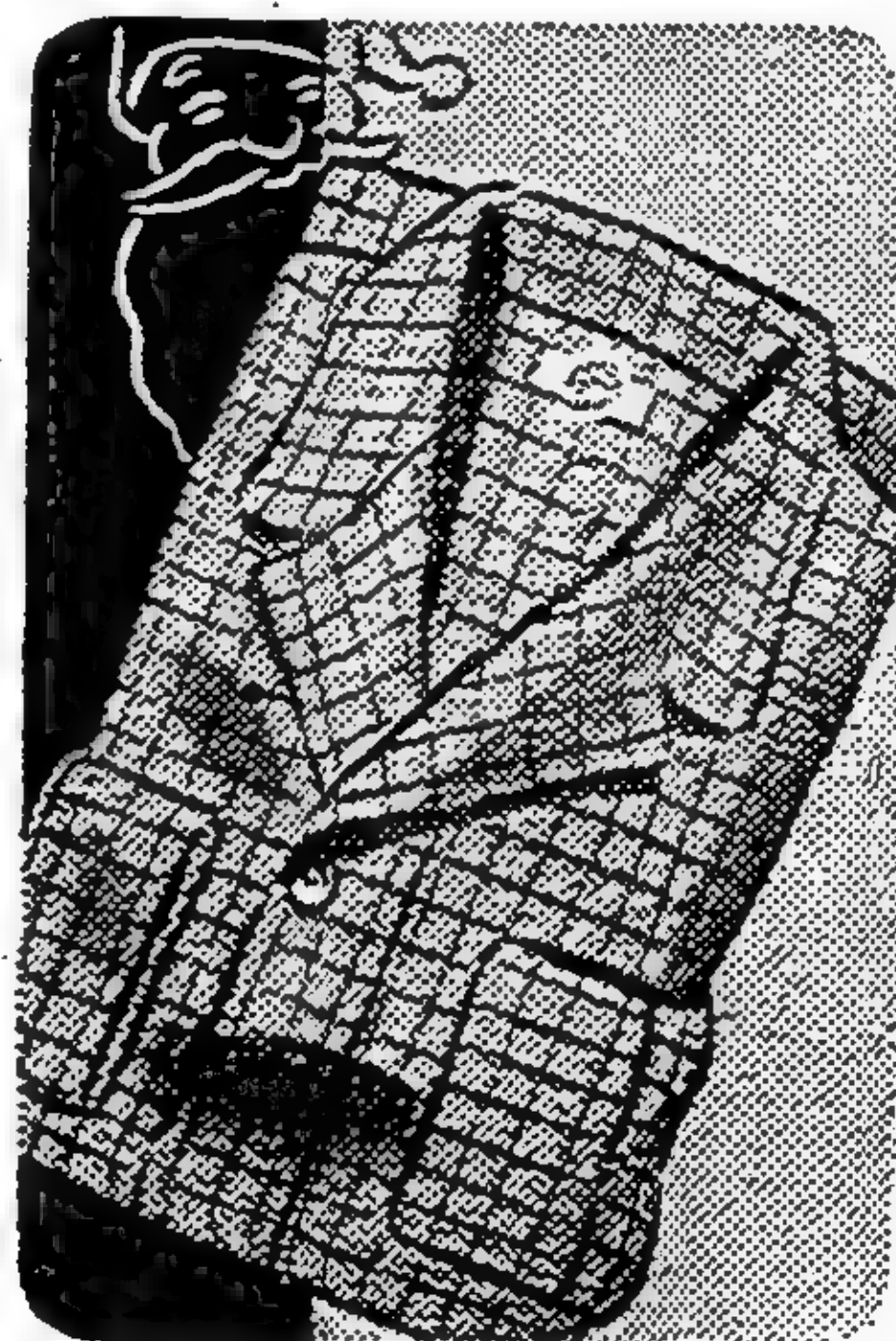
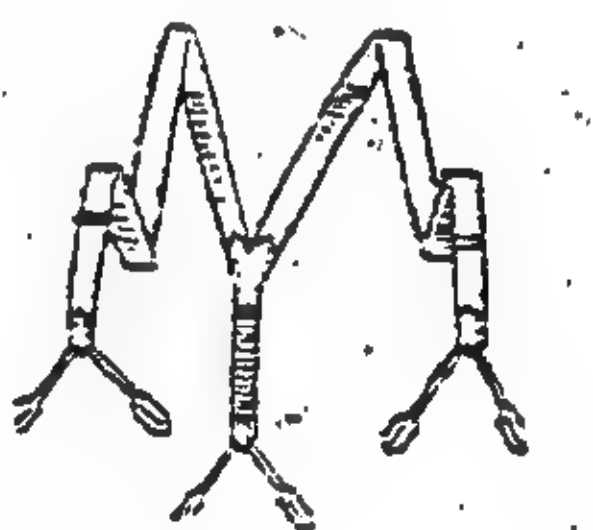
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As a good host, whatever you do for your Christmas guests, give first attention to the drinking schedule. The proper drinks, at the right times, can often take the place of other assorted games.

As a champion sitter myself, I would rather see twenty-nine bottles sitting on the shelf than eighteen rises in the ring.

Others have different tastes, I'll admit, and you have to look out for them also.

If your guest arrives in mid-afternoon, he is probably tired. Before doing anything more there should be a hand-shake and a slight sit-around. I've found a pleasant compromise for this period in a long glass of vermouth, ice and charged water, dressed with mint or without. This is a slight pick-up and leaves you in no danger. Whisky is too stiff for a start and too, when you start on that routine you usually like to continued until dinner.

Later there is a swell excuse for a bowl of some sort or a sauterne cup. One of the easiest of the latter is as follows:

Slice some peaches and apricots (twice as many of the former) add a little brandy, cover with sugar and let stand for a few hours. When ready to serve put the mixture in a bowl or pitcher and pour over sauterne and charged water. Ice slightly so as not to weaken the drink.

A simpler light drink is Rhine wine and seltzer, mixing in a pitcher with ice.

A variant of the above is to add a wine glass of dry sherry to the mixture, the juice of a lemon and a few slices of cucumber. Sugar can be added or not as the taste decides.

If the girl friends have come along and prefer a bit of hot gossip or bridge, you can serve a harmless afternoon tippie made with lemon or orange water ice.

Float the ice in a bowl of white wine and charged water. The ice melts enough to cool the liquid and contribute the flavour.

Before dinner, cocktails are certainly indicated. The mark of the host is his cocktails. You might assume that anything as commonly used as the cocktail would be fool-proof. But the facts are against you. I recently read a survey conducted by a hotel magazine. The two cocktails most in demand in America were the Martini and the Manhattan. And yet these two, according to the answers to questionnaires were made in dozens of different ways. Only in the largest cities was there any sort of standardisation. I have even found, at a tea given by a host of repute, cherries in a Martini. It's not the offence against decency that hurts, it's the stomach.

DRINK
RICKSHA
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The best Martini is the kind served in France or on the French boats.

The dry Martini is *not* one-third French vermouth and two-thirds gin (dash of lemon peel

dry Martini. Sticklers, however, insist that a small pickled onion be used in lieu of the olive when you use absinthe.

The Manhattan is also often abused. I like Manhattans that desert the formula and use only one-fourths rye. The serving of old-fashioned at cocktail time is coming along rapidly. This makes it easier as the taste of the rye remains above the garnishing of fruit. (Slice of orange, slice of lemon, stick of pineapple, cherry.) To abet this, use a lump of ice and no mineral water or soda. Also beware of bitters. A drop too much ruins a drink.

Unless you are a connoisseur, or have a fabulous cellar, follow the simple course for dinner. During warmer days Alsatian wines are an agreeable change from the white Bordeaux with the earlier courses. You can also with good taste lean over to the white side for most of the meal unless you have a specially heavy

meat entree. It would be difficult to find fowl that did not go down well with Pouilly-Fuisse or a Meursault. If you insist on the reds you can steer an easy course with the Pommards, Chambertins or Corton.

Many a good dinner has been spoiled by a thoughtless dessert. When the gourmets have a special exhibition they run from dessert as you would from an insurance salesman. The perfect meal ends with cheese, if you serve the full complement of wines.

Be chary of sweets except that contained in fruits, stewed or in their natural state. I have eaten a perfect meal, only to be thrown by a bit of chocolate sauce sneaked under the dim lights of a restaurant. If you serve cordials match them with the *entremet*. Brandy with the black coffee meets with little opposition. Before the men join the ladies, you can safely offer them a creme de menthe.

ON KEEPING THE WEEK-END UP

olive, etc.) but *one-sixth* French vermouth and five-sixths gin. Some insist on a little Italian vermouth with the French but that throws it back on the sweet side and makes something else again. For spirited occasions a few drops of Pernod, Oxygené, or absinthe, adds just the touch to the

SOME CHRISTMAS DON'T'S

DON'T bother to light the Christmas-pudding just because you think that will make it less heavy. If you are determined to light it, however, don't use petrol. It spoils the flavour.

* * *

Don't kiss every giggle under the mistletoe in the darkness of the hall. A giggle has no age-limit and you don't want to waste a film-kiss on your Cousin Tabitha, do you?

* * *

Don't play "Postman's Knock" unless you are prepared to risk your best girl receiving "two" parcels, three telegrams, four registered letters and a postcard from your worst enemy.

* * *

Don't waste time hunting around for mistletoe when a kissable opportunity presents itself at Christmas. You didn't bother about mistletoe behind that rock in August, did you?

* * *

Don't get worried if you don't sit down to breakfast on Christmas morning until 11.30. The best plan is to number the day's meals during the holidays and mark them off as you eat them.

* * *

Don't let the company wrack their brains for new games to play, at two or three o'clock in the morning. Let some bright soul suggest bed, and adopt the suggestion.

If you find Santa Claus in the best bedroom, with a sack by his side, don't hesitate to telephone for the police. Despite the beard and the red cloak, the er-gentleman has come to take things away, not bring them.

* * *

Don't kid yourself that you will be able to pretend it isn't Christmas. Ninety-nine per cent. of those who say: "We're going to forget that it is Christmas this year!" end up by making Whoopee on a very large scale.

BY
R. J. GREGOR

Don't fail to count your silk stockings before going to bed, if you have a small brother or sister. Nine little Willies out of ten, cast longing eyes at their sisters' stockings on Christmas Eve.

* * *

Don't get hysterical if the turkey is burnt to a cinder. It was probably too tough to be edible, anyway. Again, don't forget that if the turkey's burnt, there won't be any carving to be done; and that's something, isn't it?

* * *

Don't attempt to put the brake on Jimmie's appetite. He won't believe you when you say: "You'll be ill if you eat any more, Jimmie!" until he is ill.

* * *

Don't fail to make Auntie "Blind-man" when you play that game. If you do this you can

put the vases she gave you, in her way and let HER smash them. (Now that is an idea, IF you like!)

* * *

Don't let the children worry Uncle Bill (or Mary's boy), to make false teeth out of orange peel. Let them look at Aunt Fanny, if they want a laugh.

* * *

Don't encourage Father to play with the children on Christmas morning. The kids want to play



with their toys themselves. It is a wise plan purposely to forget the ingredients for the Stuffing, and send Father out for them immediately after breakfast. That will get rid of the biggest hindrance.

* * *

Don't light the drawing-room fire first thing on Christmas morning. If you do there's bound to be an argument about "Who let the fire go out?" before the Christmas dinner is served.

* * *

Don't worry about the expense that Christmas always entails. Remember that you'll have 364 more days to worry about that.

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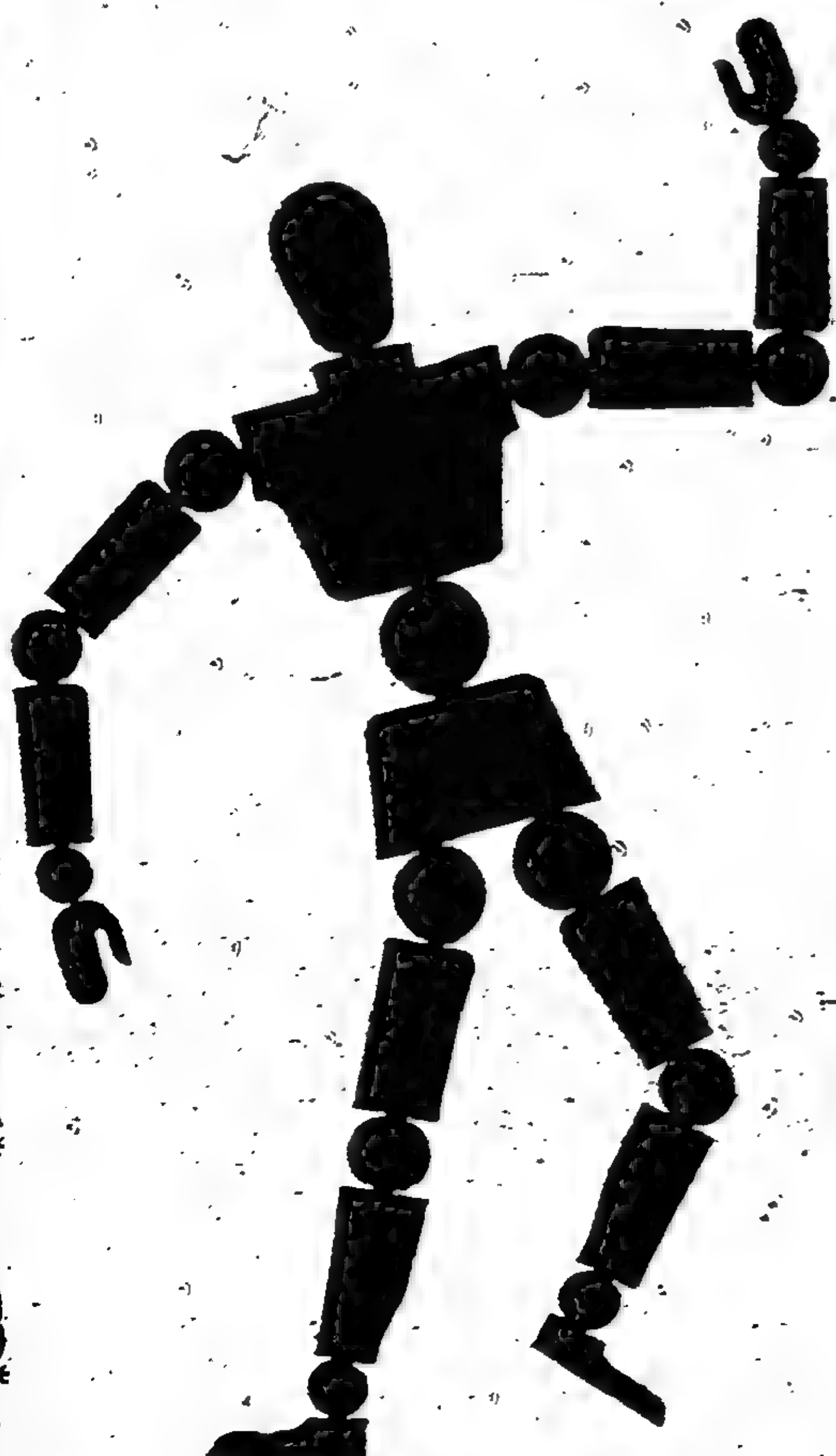
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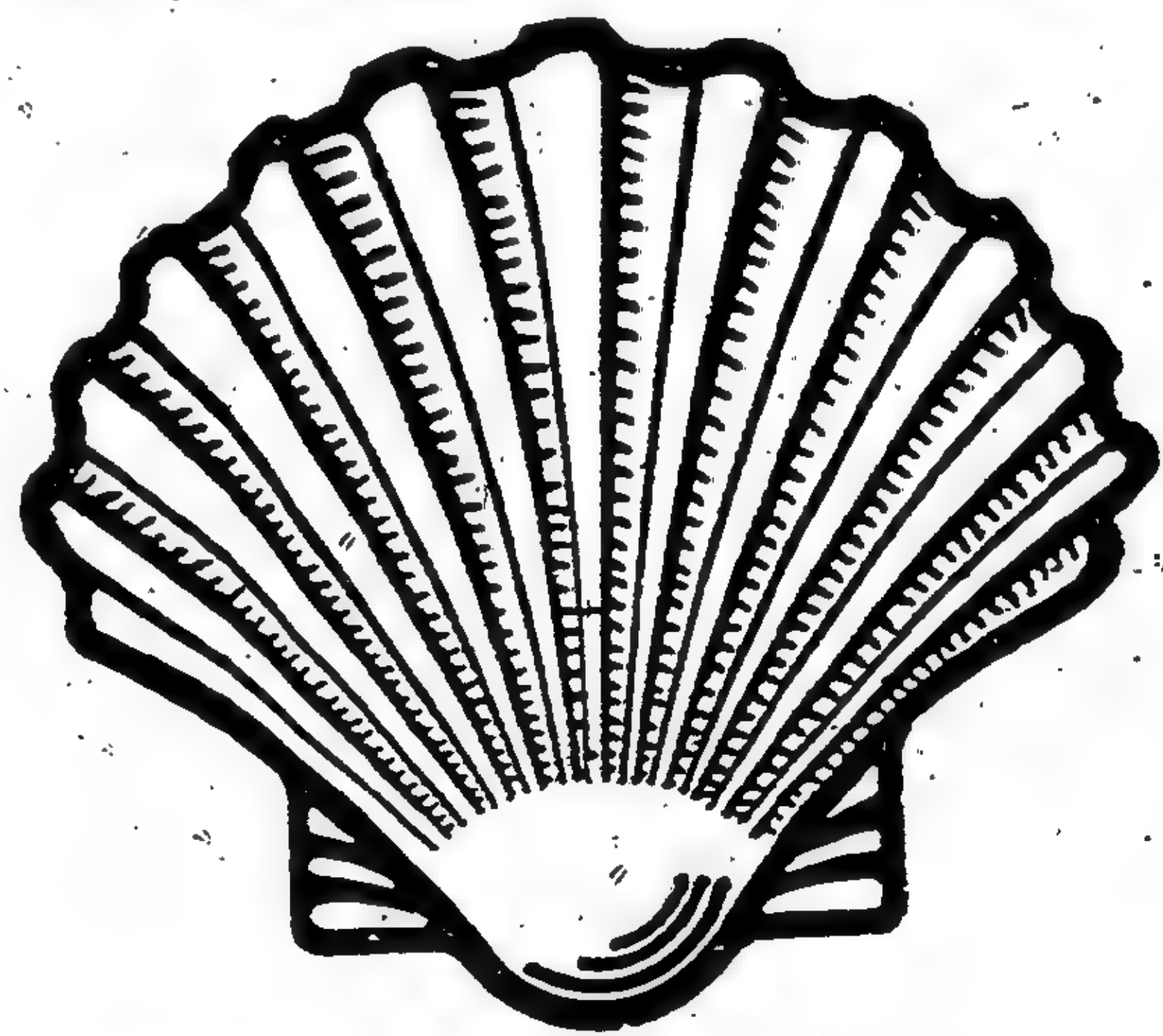
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SWORD OF RIDICULE

(Continued from Page 6)

The Viceroy lifted a hand. The Prefect of Police heard a noise behind him and saw four armed men advancing on him. His hand dived under his robe, but they had sprung forward and wrenched his pistol from him before he could pull it out. He sat back heavily and glared across at the smiling old man.

"To continue my tale—in this better atmosphere—the brilliant man, broken by injustice, took to opium. The other continued to rise in office.

"Eight years went by, then the scholar's bitterness found voice. He began writing epigrams and allegorical lampoons ridiculing a high official, pricking his pomposity and monstrous vanity. The Prefect of Police chose to regard them as pointing at himself. He is sitting opposite me. As you all know, a bully is the weakest of men, for he has no sense of humour. In his ramen he raged like a man demented as these catchy rhymes and witty lampoons continued month after month, year after year, for three years. Often he was heard to swear vengeance and destruction to his enemy.

"At last, two months ago, his opportunity came. The unfortunate man was found with blood on his hands beside his murdered wife.

"Now, you future Viceroys, I want you to listen very closely to what is coming. Again my instinct told me the truth. Instinct! If you have it, trust it. The first time I could not protect an innocent man. This time I was in a position to do so. I knew so grand a scholar would not murder a wife he loved.

"Yet publicly I appeared helpless, for the Prefect of Police successfully obtained his verdict from the Chief Magistrate, just on one point. He made the Chief Magistrate agree that it was not necessary to establish motive with an opium addict. His exact words were: 'In one of his trances the ex-swindler, not knowing what he was doing, stabbed his wife to death. And to invalidate this excuse in the future I demand the death penalty.

"Well, my experience was that alcohol produces violence. Opium never—just the opposite, gentleness and peace. But I could not override the Chief Magistrate's sentence, for in point of evidence blood is blood, and the remote possibility of a man murdering in a trance cannot be discounted in law. So I began my inquiries.

"But it has taken me, with all my resources, these two months to complete the last link in the

true evidence—the last ring. Remember ring.

"Yet I must ask you to bear in mind one other thing—that the Prefect of Police alone has control of all police and execution arrangements which can give him a power of illegal manipulation denied any other official. For myself, knowing a policeman's trust in cunning, I sought for many coils of the serpent. At once one wriggled.

"The very next morning after the murder it so happened that fourteen pirates were executed." He waved his delicate hand across the hall. "See that fixed stare? I have touched a coil. That is how a serpent wriggles in public—by overdoing stillness."

"I protest!" shouted the Prefect of Police. Two of the guards pulled him down.

"Just observe—accuse him of murder and he laughs but touch his vanity and he shouts." A chuckle rippled through the hall. "Well, it is a weekly affair, the execution of pirates in Canton. But these loyal wretches always die like brave men. That morning one struggled violently at sight of the executioner's sword shouting that he was not a pirate. That night I had all fourteen heads dug up and preserved.

"Now we go back a day, to the night of the murder. The prosecutor made great play of the circumstance that no suspicious character had been seen that night near the house of the murdered woman. But my subsequent inquiries showed that there had been such a suspicious character—a well-known burglar. That protesting pirate was that well-known burglar.

"You see, that burglar had to be got rid of because he was the murderer of the dead woman. From that moment two other persons had also to be killed, for this is a tale of very skillful destruction of evidence.

"First, there was the pirate who had not been executed. How was he disposed of? He was sent back to the pirate chief with a letter. You will hear its brilliant contents later.

"Next on the list was, of course, the detective who had arrested the burglar. . . . The moment he arrived back with the easily-found man the Prefect of Police kept him in his own room.

"To instruct him in a special mission. Do you see the dramatic scene? Here was a pirate in the cells his chief had spared. Why? So that a reliable detective could follow him and track down the pirate lair!

"Puffed up with flattery the innocent detective at once set off on this gift of a trail, and the next day when he was hot on the letter-bearer's heels, that letter was in the pirate-chief's hands. Made up of words cut from a book or newspaper, it contained two interesting items for the pirate-chief. One, a description of the detective's disguise,



The Christmas Card chosen this year by the Duke and Duchess of Kent and carried out by Raphael Tuck.

and, two, that the bearer had given away secrets under torture.

"The messenger died a minute after delivering the letter, and the detective the next day. That completes the three murders.

"But I know that all this time there is an unsatisfied thought in most of your minds. In spite of all I have said of the prisoner's character, you are still asking yourselves this incredible question: How did a man in his high position come to do so stupid a thing as to commit murder after murder merely to achieve the death of an innocent man? The answer is simple. Twice before in my life I have seen this same violent animal reaction. . . . The sword of ridicule had nicked this vain man. That is all. Such men stand the rack better than wit."

"Prove it! Prove it! Prove all you've said!" cried the man held so skillfully in a vice.

"Why should you get so excited? I've written all this in my Memorial. If I can't prove such serious charges, it is my head that will come off."

"And it will, even if you are in your dotage!"

"Perhaps I am in my dotage, so let me tell you what else is in my Memorial. . . . You also made very impressive play at the trial of the circumstances that there had been no proved robbery. But you will remember that the prisoner maintained that his wife had a gold pin through the bun at the back of her head, the last bit of jewelry she possessed. No gold pin was found on the dead woman. . . . I believed that one had been stolen from her.

"I know you laughed very much when I gave orders to my men to look for that pin in the pawn-shops, among a million such in Canton. But shall I tell you something now?

"They were searching the pawn-shops for something else, something that was stolen not from the dead woman—but from the prisoner." The Viceroy leaned forward.

"Well may you blink so hard. This you did not know. And it is this that will fetch your head off on the execution ground. The head you fetched off, that preserved head of the burglar, was identified by the pawnbroker to whom he sold the stolen article. No laugh?"

"Childish talk!"

"Well, is this childish talk? The prisoner, being an ex-magistrate and familiar with your methods, said nothing about what had been stolen from him, except to the investigator that I had at once sent to his cell."

"What is this article? Your most honourable Excellency, I am all ears!"

"A jade ring taken from his finger while he was in an opium stupor, a ring seen by the murderer while in the act of smearing his hands and sleeves with blood, after having stabbed his awakened wife to death."

The Prefect of Police narrowed his eyes with a sneer.

"Your Excellency, you may insult my intelligence, because you hate me, or even the Throne's because you are a Viceroy. But spare eighty grown-up men the rest of your fantasy. They are not in a position to laugh at you."

The Viceroy put the tips of his fingers together, tranquil as a Tang figure. Everyone felt the threat of the still posture.

"A ring I gave him myself eleven years ago when he came out of prison."

"A ring you gave him yourself! Please quickly assure me that you told this to the Throne!"

"I did. So did the jeweller who made that ring, in a sworn statement attached to my Memorial."

The old man took a jade ring from his pocket and held it up.

"Look well at this ring, I ask all of you. You see how it is set? The stone is not set solid into the gold. You can look right through it. And this stone isn't just one stone. It is two stones cemented together." The gentle voice snapped out: "Hold his hands!"

Two of the guards bent back the prisoner's arms, and the secretary held up the ring for him against the light of a window. The Prefect of Police stared through the jade, and his heavy jaw dropped.

"Shall I read what you read?" the silvery voice asked. "From Chao Hung Li to Peh Ming. I think the Throne knows that the first is my unworthy name, and the second that of the scholar who has killed you with his wit. Take him below!"

As the violent man was dragged out eighty scholars burst into mocking laughter.

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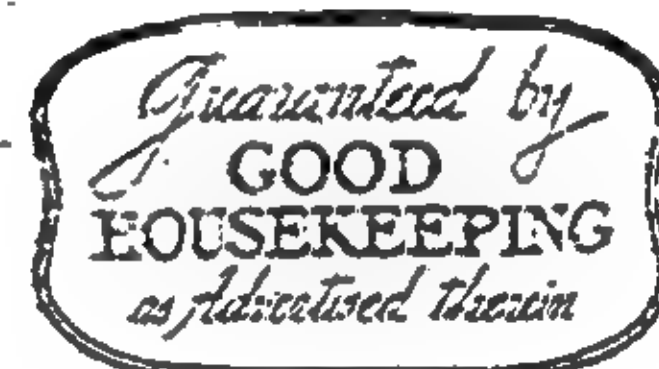
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SWORD OF RIDICULE



CONDEMNED to death. Peh Ming, famous scholar and ex-mandarin, waited in his cell with little hope of the Viceroy's reprieve.

He was found by the police beside his murdered wife, a dagger at the feet, his hands and sleeves smeared with blood.

But the executioner's sword could have got rusty while Canton waited for the old man's decision. Rumour had it that he could not bring himself to execute one who had once served under him, and who besides had married his niece.

Then one morning a notice appeared at the Viceregal gates. Not only the Prefect of Police but eighty odd serving mandarins had been summoned to hear the unfortunate man's fate.

In dark-blue full ceremonial robes, peacock's feathers trailing from upturned satin hats, the dignified figures trooped into the long reception hall, and all degrees of rank were present, as could be seen from the nine different animals embroidered in their natural colours on the front and back of tunics and the nine kinds of buttons crown-

ing the hats, from ruby through sapphire and plain gold to work-ed silver.

It was a severely blended scene, for from the four lofty walls hung only six silk tapestries, and around them stood only six monochrome vases of Sung porcelain.

At one end the Viceroy sat alone, a calm, wrinkled man of 75 with thin moustaches, his wispy beard just touching the head of an embroidered Manchurian crane, while the button on his hat gleamed fiery. It was of ruby, and rubies shone too from the jade clasp of his silk girdle.

To right and left of his marble-faced chair mandarins of the second rank seated themselves, eight on each side, with red coral button, embroidered golden pheasant and girdle clasp of gold studded with small rubies.

Behind them stood the juniors, the emblems on their chests moving up and down with their breathing, from peacock through silver pheasant to long-tailed jay.

At the other end, with red coral button, sat the Prefect of Police, who had personally conducted the prosecution and wrung the death sentence from the chief magistrate. His fixed arrogant stare and heavy jaw contrasted with the refined features of his chief.

"I have sent for so many of you," the old man began in his silvery voice, "for two reasons—to encourage the righteous and as a warning to the un-righteous." He threw a glance at the Prefect of Police, who rose as if amused.

"Your Excellency, before you give your decision—which I can guess—I too would like to teach these juniors something. Just to remind them that though a Viceroy has power of life and death in his own province, there is a power higher even than his—the Throne's. That is all." He sat down with studied ease.

"So much is this the case," agreed the Viceroy, "that I am forwarding to the Throne a memorial the honourable Prefect of Police has submitted." He held up a document. "Here it is. It charges me with protecting a convicted murderer. I am going further in this breach of duty. I am setting the prisoner free."

The Prefect of Police laughed.

"I will go still further. I give you back your memorial, and ask you to bring it up to date, to include your censure of my decision."

There was a rustle of silk as neighbours exchanged incredulous glances. A servant took the document to the Prefect of Police, while another brought him a small writing table.

"An Imperial messenger is at this moment waiting to return to the capital. He will take your completed memorial as well as mine. But note carefully what is in my memorial. It gives not only a report of this case up to the prisoner's release, but what will happen in this hall in the next 20 minutes." The writer stayed his quick brush. "Yes, what will happen in this hall in the next 20 minutes. I do not wish to hurry you, but the Imperial messenger must leave in ten minutes' time to catch the tide. I know you will not need ten minutes to complete your indictment against me."

The writer answered with a sneer. In the dramatic silence the Imperial messenger came forward, with a large tin tube in his hand, and a servant bowed him into a chair set before a table. As he laid on it a bar of soft solder, a soldering iron and a wick lamp, the Viceroy's secretary brought him the usual bundle of official documents, which he at once slipped into the tube.

The Prefect of Police now handed his refreshed Memorial back to the waiting servant. His chief carefully read the addition before putting his vermilion seal below the Prefect's. Then he passed it over to the Imperial Messenger with his own.

Defly the Metropolitan official made room for them, in the tin tube, slid the cover over, and soldered together the join. Then spreading out the soft metal in two places he put the Imperial seal on one, and took the tube to the Viceroy who put his seal on the other.

"Your Excellency, I take my departure so that the Imperial Ear shall ever remain open."

"Your Excellency, fair winds and good roads!"

Giving three deep bows, the Imperial Messenger left the hall. There was now no recalling these Memorials to a Throne that did not tolerate mistakes.

The Prefect of the Police rose. "I have not finished," said the old man. "Pray resume your seat while I tell a tale."

"Your Excellency, I have my duties awaiting me."

"No, you have no more official duties to perform. When you leave this room you will go as a prisoner. Sit and hear why you will yourself be standing your trial to-morrow."

"My trial?"

"At which I shall be the chief witness—for murder."

"For murder!" The Prefect of Police laughed very loud.

"It is all down in my Memorial."

"What?"

"Perhaps now you may care to listen to my tale."

The old man sat back, and the eighty mandarins craned forward.

"Twenty years ago when I was Chief Magistrate of this city, I had under me two subordinates who belonged to the two poles of human character. One was vain, ambitious and ruthless; the other, seven years younger, scholarly and charming."

"Then both received promotion into the Revenue Department. At once note one thing. The brilliant younger man was senior in office. That rankled with the brutal man. Besides that the scholar could never resist the pleasure of thrusting with his witty tongue at his thin-skinned, bull-headed colleague. I never saw two men hate each other more."

"Five years later a serious misappropriation of funds was discovered. The senior's books showed he had stolen the money. A Chief Magistrate I tried him. My instinct was against the evidence, not because he had married my niece, but because I knew this humorous deep scholar to be a true Confucian. And much though I disliked the tactics of the then Prefect of Police who happened to be the junior's uncle, I had to administer the law."

"The prisoner received 10 years' prison. Four years later, when I became Viceroy, I set him free. Not one cent had been traced to him. You all know who they are."

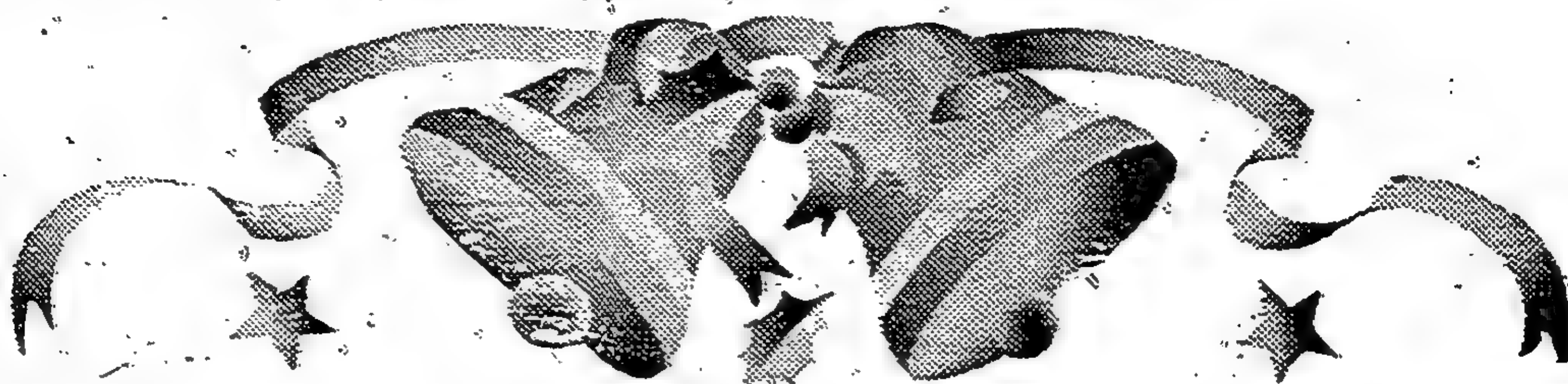
"There is only one thing missing from your tale, your Excellency," said the man opposite. "Why don't you openly accuse me of having stolen that money?"

"I have no need to, for I shall be having your head off within this week."

A great contemptuous laugh again filled the hall.

(Continued on Page 8)

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A GIFT
AS GOOD AS GOLD



EO-44





CHRISTMAS Gifts make a good game with which to begin the party, and it needs only a little preparation beforehand. Cut out a number of presents of all kinds from a coloured Christmas catalogue. Allow at least half a dozen to each guest. Hide these all over the house, or, if more convenient, in one or two of the rooms only. Then, when you are ready, invite your guests to find as many paper gifts as they can. Recall them at the end of ten minutes, and give a small but real present to the one who has succeeded in finding the most in the time.

If you want to add to the fun, mark half the gifts with L and the others with M. The ladies look for those with L on them, while the men may only collect those with M. If you have youngsters among your guests, then theirs should be labelled C.

Everyone is in honour bound to replace any unwanted gift in its original position, and not to mention it to anyone else. Quarter of an hour should be allowed for this search.

Chain Team.—Divide your guests into two teams, each under a Captain. Provide each Captain with one of those packets of cut paper that are used for making paper chains. At the word "Go!" each team sets to work to make up its chain. The winning team is the one that produces the first complete chain.

Musical Beads.—Put a number of beads in a box lid, together with a needle threaded with a long piece of cotton. (If you haven't many beads, add buttons to the collections.) All the guests sit in a circle, and while music is played the lid is passed round from one player to the next. When the music stops (as in Musical Chairs), whoever is holding the box proceeds to thread as many beads on the cotton as he can before the music goes on again. He counts as many points as he has threaded beads. When all beads are used up, the winner is the one who has gained the highest number of points altogether.

Long Word Game.—Before the party make out a list of a dozen short sentences with the name of an object left out. When you are ready to play the game, provide each player with pencil and paper. Then read each sentence slowly, giving only a letter in place of the missing word. For example, you might say, "The door opened and a C— walked into the room." Each

GAMES THAT EVERYONE WILL ENJOY

player then writes down the longest word he can think of which begins with C, and would fill in the space. Thus, one might put Cat, another Crocodile, and another Coster. Of course, the word must make sense. When all the sentences have been read, each player supplies the missing words in turn, sentence by sentence, and each time the player who has the longest counts one point. The winner is the one with the highest number of points altogether.

Clappers Ring. All the play-

ers stand in a circle. The first one turns to his left-hand neighbour, and the two solemnly clap their own hands together once. Then each player claps the other player's right hand with his right, claps hands together, and claps the other player's left hand with his left. The hands are then clapped together once more, and then each one claps his partner's hands, palms together, finishing by clapping their own hands. The second player then turns and does the same to the third, and so on round the ring. It is really

very easy, but the point is that no player may laugh while he is clapping. Anyone who so much as smiles is out of the game, and the winners are the serious people who are left in until the end!

Musical Seachlight.—One player is given a torchlight, and while music is played as for Musical Chairs, he, together with all the other players, moves about the room. While doing so he passes the torchlight secretly on to someone else. As soon as the music stops, the holder of the torchlight turns it on in any direction, and the player who is the nearest to him in its ray has to retire from the game. When the music begins again all move about, and the holder passes the torchlight on to someone else. Thus the game continues, the winners being the ones left in until the end.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

(Continued from Page 3)

two guineas, and you said I was not to spend more than a guinea. Besides, Henry Richards, your mother ought to get over hating lavender, it's much more suitable for her than pink or blue. She wears lots of things that are too young for her. And if you don't like what I choose for her, why don't you take the time and trouble to get it yourself. Oh no, you never do your own Christmas shopping. I must hunt about everywhere and push through the awful crowds and then, when I get something that is in good taste and suitable, you begin to find fault.

Henry: Another year I'll do my own Christmas shopping, you can bet. That cardigan will ruin the whole day for mother.

(There is a short angry silence while both work furiously).

Anne (rummaging): This Bridge scorer is for Aunt Amy's stocking.

Henry (snatches it and stuffs it in): Thanks.

Anne: And all these funny little toys are for the children, put two or three into each one. Look at the little mounted policemen—aren't they darlings? I got them at the sixpenny stores.

Henry (forgetting his grievance): By George, they are fun. (Examines toys). I don't see how they can sell them at such a price—they're well finished and, then there's the paint—

Anne (sorting rapidly): The silk stockings are for Louise, and I got a pair for Fay, too. They're not what she wants, but they'll have to do.

Henry: How do you know

they're not what she wants? What does she want?

Anne: They're not what she wants because she wears 'em extra large. And she told me pointedly a couple of weeks ago that she did hope people would give her some good perfume this year, it was the one thing she was pining for. I told her I'd like some myself.

Henry: Did you get any other present for Louise? Besides the stockings, I mean—she's so touchy.

Anne: Yes, I got her a nice hand-mirror, one of the kind that enlarges the blemishes. It's there under the tree.

Henry (with sudden fury): What's got into you about my family, Anne? You know very well Louise'll take that as a deadly insult. Why didn't you get her a new handbag or some handkerchiefs, something civilised? I don't know why you women have to be so hateful and petty-minded.

Anne (meanly): All smart women have one of those hand-glasses on their dressing-table. I thought Louise might like to be considered smart for once in her life!

Henry: Well, of all the—(jumps to his feet, scattering papers and presents recklessly). What a farce the whole thing is! What a silly, stupid, rotten farce! We spend all our money and work ourselves half-mad, pretending it's generosity and good-feeling—Christmas! "Merry Christmas!" I hate and loath the day and everything that goes with it. (There is a sound of singing outside, far away). What's that music? (He

goes over to the window and opens it. Anne comes and stands beside him and the music comes to them clearly, the voices sweetly blended. It is old Christmas hymn).

"In the lowly manger lies the King of Angels.

O come let us adore Him.

O come let us adore Him.

O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord."

Anne (softly): It's the waits, going home. Isn't it lovely—(draws closer to Henry, they listen, the tension relaxes, he put his arm around her, she drops her head on his shoulder).

Anne (repentantly): I'm sorry I was so hateful, Henry. I can give your mother the umbrella and give Aunt Amy the lavender cardigan. And I can give Cousin Fay the mirror, and I'll give that new chiffon scarf of mine to Louise. I can get another.

Henry (hugging her): Why, you darling! I'll give Lilian's boy-friend one of my own neckties instead of Cousin Percy's.

(The voices go on, drawing farther away).

"Holy night, silent night—"

Henry: I say, let's simply knot up all of each person's gifts in a square of that red crinkly paper—you know—like a tramp's handkerchief—and lay them under the tree—that'll save all the tying up of separate packages.

Anne: Henry, you're a genius. That'll be wonderful. It won't take any time and it'll look gorgeous, too. (She points to the clock.) Look, it's Christmas Day! Merry Christmas, dearest!

Henry (kissing her with fervour): Merry Christmas, dearest dear!

(As they close the window, the voices fade out.)

Curtain.

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THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

THE Richards' sitting-room was, to put it plainly, in a frightful mess. It looked as if it had never known one moment of order for months on end.

In one corner, was a big screen, obviously quite out of its normal place, with the top of a Christmas-tree rising above it. On the floor, tables, chairs, wireless, desk and sofa, sweeping right up to the hearth as on a rising tide, were boxes of every size and shape, wrapping paper, used and unused, string, tinsel, gold and silver and scarlet and green ribbons, and mixed in with these helter-skelter were such odd objects as a bowl of oranges, a rolled umbrella, dishes of sweets, net Christmas stockings, cards, toys, and an enormous waste-paper basket overflowing with trifles of china, leather, metal, cardboard, satin, enamel, wool—even a few books!

Anne Richards glanced nervously at the clock, which said eleven. She pushed back the oranges, a pair of brass candlesticks and a set of Bridge scorers to make a few inches of space on the table, then she hunted wildly through the top drawer of the bureau for a pen and a stack of holly-printed cards, pushed from a chair a heap of holly and mistletoe—they were already tottering—dropped on to it and groaned.

The pen dropped too, and left an inky trail down her smart but dishevelled red skirt, but she was far too tired to care.

At the same moment, Henry Richards, her husband, cautiously opened the door from the hall and came in. He was as tired and dishevelled as Anne, with his overcoat undone and his hat in his hand.

Henry (speaking cautiously): Oh, there you are!

Anne: What's left of me. (She rouses herself and picks up the pen.) Did you find anything that would do?

Henry (taking off coat and hanging it and his hat on a standard lamp): There wasn't a shop open except a chemist.

Anne: You might have brought him a packet of bi-carbonate of soda, he'll need it if he keeps on eating as much as he did at dinner.

Henry: Yes, you are right. But I had a bright idea—we'll give him the necktie we bought for cousin Percy. It's quite good enough for him.

Annie: Oh, no Henry! You own

niece Lillian's first boy-friend! Have a heart.

Henry: Spare your breath. I have made up my mind, woman! (Looks around him.) Lord, what a welter! Well, I suppose we've got to tackle it. What have you got there?

Anne: I was just starting to write the cards for the stockings.

Henry: Are the stockings filled?

Anne: Don't be silly. What chance have I had to fill any stockings? I only managed to get the people to bed a few minutes before you came in.

Henry (picking up one of the stockings he begins mechanically to stuff it with whatever comes first to his hand): Now did you get 'em all tucked away for the night? Twelve extra people are no joke. There were plenty already without Lillian bringing her boy-friend.

Anne (snatching stocking from Henry): For pity's sake, Henry, do it properly. Put an orange in

CONVERSATION OVERHEARD

the toe, then some of those wrapped up toffee, and then one of those little favours and some nuts. When you've got them filled so far we'll choose a suitable present and tie the card on.

Henry (gloomily): All right. Why do we have to have these confounded stockings, anyway?

Anne (unpleasantly): You don't seem to remember, Henry darling, that it's a quaint old custom in your family to have a stocking for every member of the family—including the servants—hanging on the mantelpiece when they come downstairs on Christmas morning. Your mother says it wouldn't be Christmas without them. And since we, and not she, are having the family blow-out this happy holiday, we, and not she, are, oh so merrily and cheerily, filling the row of, as you truthfully call them, confounded stockings.

Henry (still more gloomily, but filling stockings like a madman): Well, it's all stuff and nonsense, and I'm going to tell mother so in the morning.

Anne (also packing): Oh no, you're not—she'd think I'd put you up to it.

Henry: Give me another stocking. (Slams an orange into it.)

I still don't understand how you got them all to bed. Oh look, Anne, I've busted that stocking!

Anne: Never mind, I've got a couple of extra ones. Now, about the beds. Your mother and your sister Louise have our room—

Henry: For heaven's sake, where are we going to sleep?

Anne: Henry, you're the world's brightest optimist. Can you look at what we've got to do to-night and expect to go to sleep anywhere?

Henry: I wish we'd engaged somebody to deal with all this junk.

Anne: Well, we haven't! Now, your mother and Louise are in our room, and I put Mabel and Theodore Parsons, the baby, and their little Edna all in the spare room. Mabel said Theodore wouldn't like having the children in the same room with him, but I told her in my best and most hearty manner that Christmas comes but once a year and Theodore must enter into the spirit of it.

Henry: I don't want to say anything about your sister and brother-in-law, but when anyone comes to stay who brings three children, they ought to expect some slight inconvenience. They're very casual with their children, anyway, it will do 'em good to get to know them better. But I say, what about Teddy Parsons?

Anne: Teddy and our child and Lillian's boy-friend, Mr. Tyndall, are all very cosy and comfy on campbeds in the attic.

Henry: But where's Cousin Paul and Fay? Where's our own Patsy? Where's Aunt Amy? Where's Lillian? Gosh, this house is simply crawling with family, isn't it?

Anne: Cousin Paul and Fay have Patsy's room, and Aunt Amy has Henry's, and I made up the couch in the dining-room for Lillian. Incidentally, I've used every sheet, every pillow-case, blanket and bedspread in the linen cupboard, I hate to think of what the laundry bill will be next week.

Henry: This whole bust is going to cost the earth. And what does it all amount to! Look, that's the last stocking.

Anne: All right, now for the presents. That lip-stick and compact are for Lillian, and so's that sweet little stamp-box—I'll like to keep it myself. I'll write the card and that one will be done and we can hang it up.

Henry (with sarcasm): More lip-stick for that silly little thing—she uses too much now. Honestly, those flappers get on my nerves. Not one of 'em has a brain in her head. Give me that necktie and I'll finish the stocking for the boy-friend that Lillian has dragged into this party without asking.

Anne: You mean he gate-crashed, dear.

Henry: Something's going to crash on him if he trots out any more childish ideas about world politics to me. (Hangs filled stocking on to mantelpiece with vindictive gestures).



Anne: Oh, Henry, that reminds me—please, please don't start any discussion about banks and banking with Theodore to-morrow, you both get so excited and it makes everything so tiresome.

Henry: Now listen, Anne, all I ever do is to correct Theodore's ignorance. For a man who is really quite well-informed on some subjects he knows less about banking—I say, where's his present? He's next on the list.

Anne: I didn't know what to get him so I bought him a book. He likes reading.

Henry: What's the book? (Reads title). Emerson's Essays! Good Lord, Anne, why didn't you get him a good detective story?

Anne (snappily): Because good detective stories cost seven and sixpence and this was half-a-crown. He could do with reading something solid. Do him good.

Henry: Did you ever read Emerson's Essays? (Hangs up stocking).

Anne: No, and I never read Carlyle's Sartor Resartus, either, nor Milton's Paradise Lost. But they're all classics. Put some of these cigarettes in, too, and a box of fancy matches. After all, these are just little stocking gifts, the real gifts will all be tied up and laid at the foot of the Christmas-tree.

Henry: I hope they're ready. I'm tired as a dog. This Christmas business is getting me down.

Anne: Not one of them is tied up, we've got to do them after we've finished the stockings. This holly and mistletoe has to be put up, too.

Henry: It's not humanly possible. (Wails). Annn, we can't!

Anne (grimly): We've got to.

Henry: I'm all in now. I say, Anne, what did you finally get for mother?

Anne (avoiding his gaze): I got a lavender cardigan. Now don't say a word, Henry, it's perfectly lovely, hand-knitted, marked down from two guineas to twenty-two and six.

Henry: But you know mother hates cardigans, and she hates the colour. She always has. She says it's so old-ladyish. Why didn't you get a blue one or a nice bright pink?

Anne: Because there weren't any, unless I could pay the full

(Continued on Page 4)



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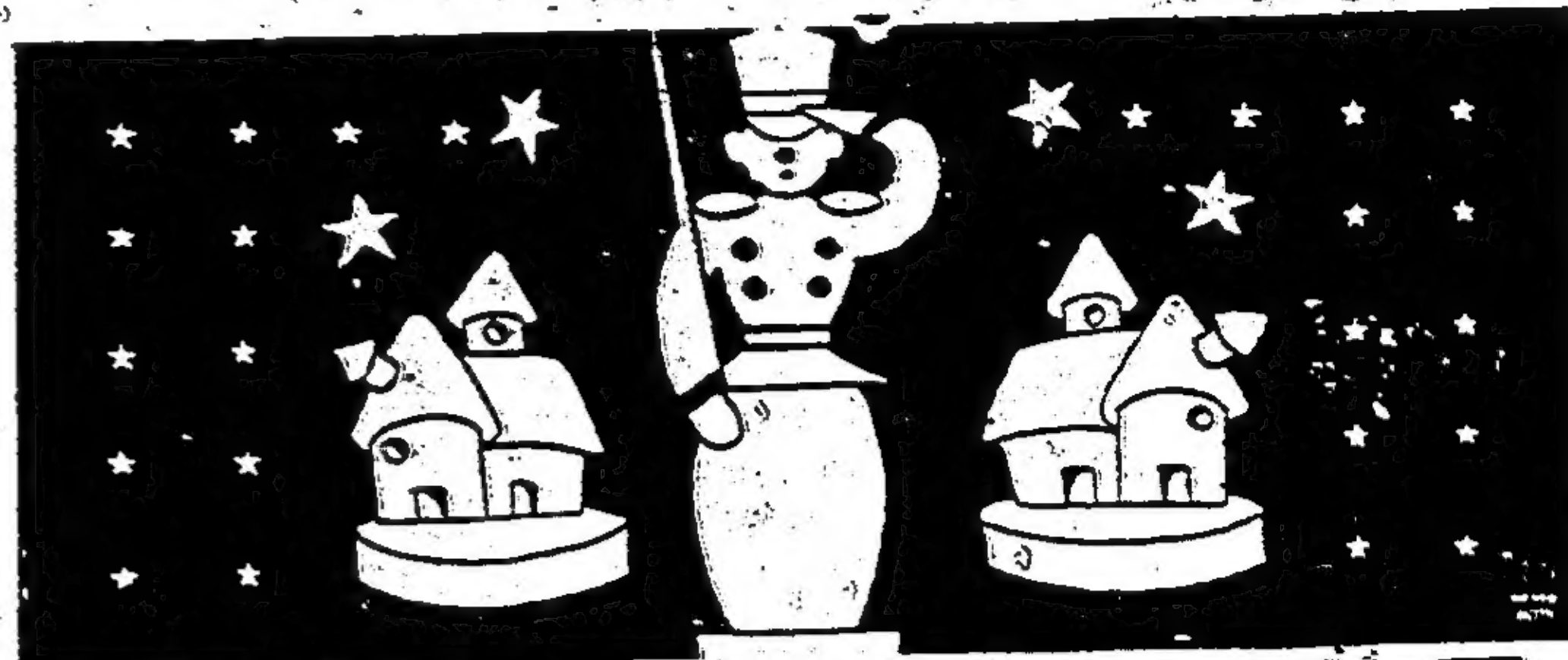
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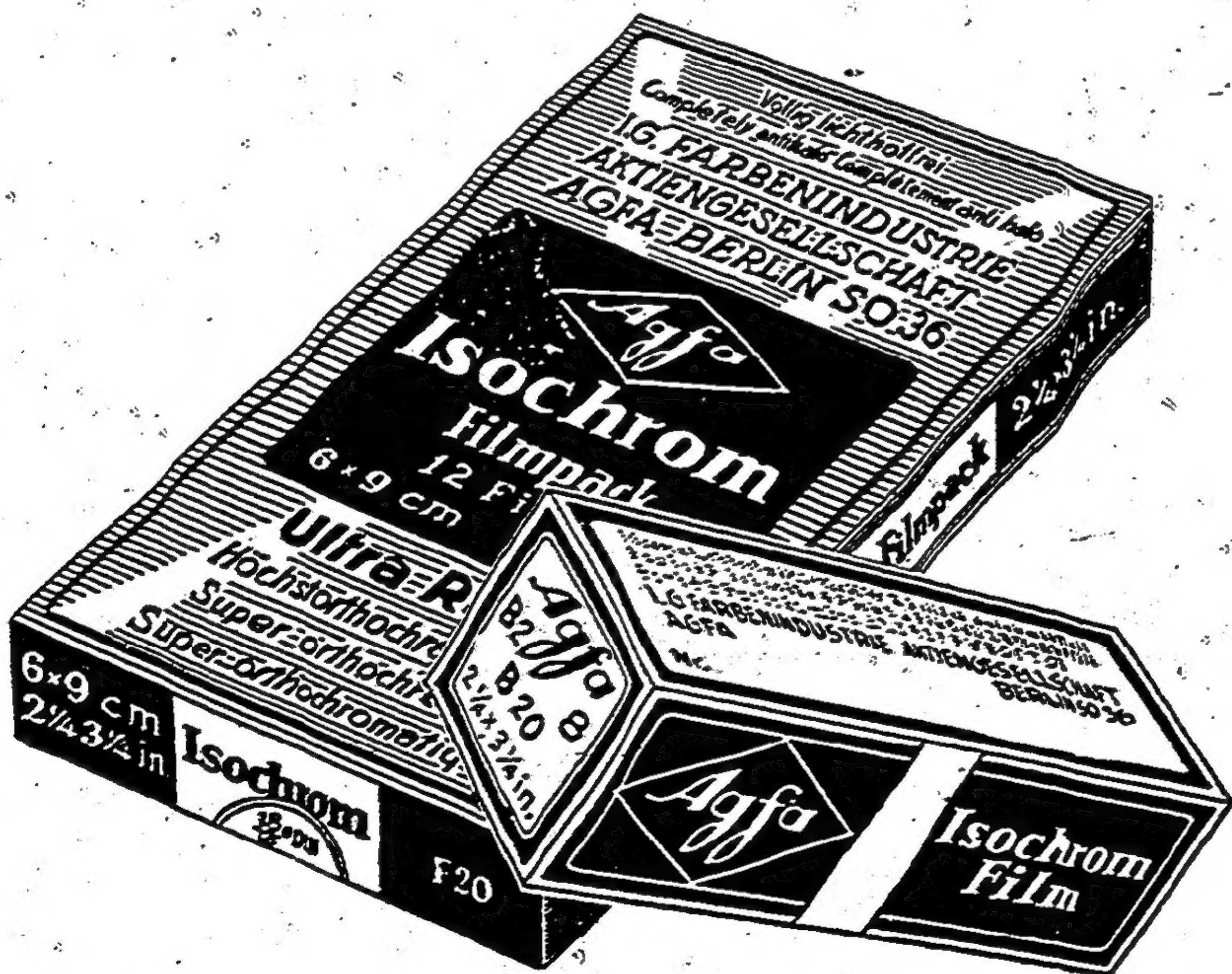
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Christmas Supplement

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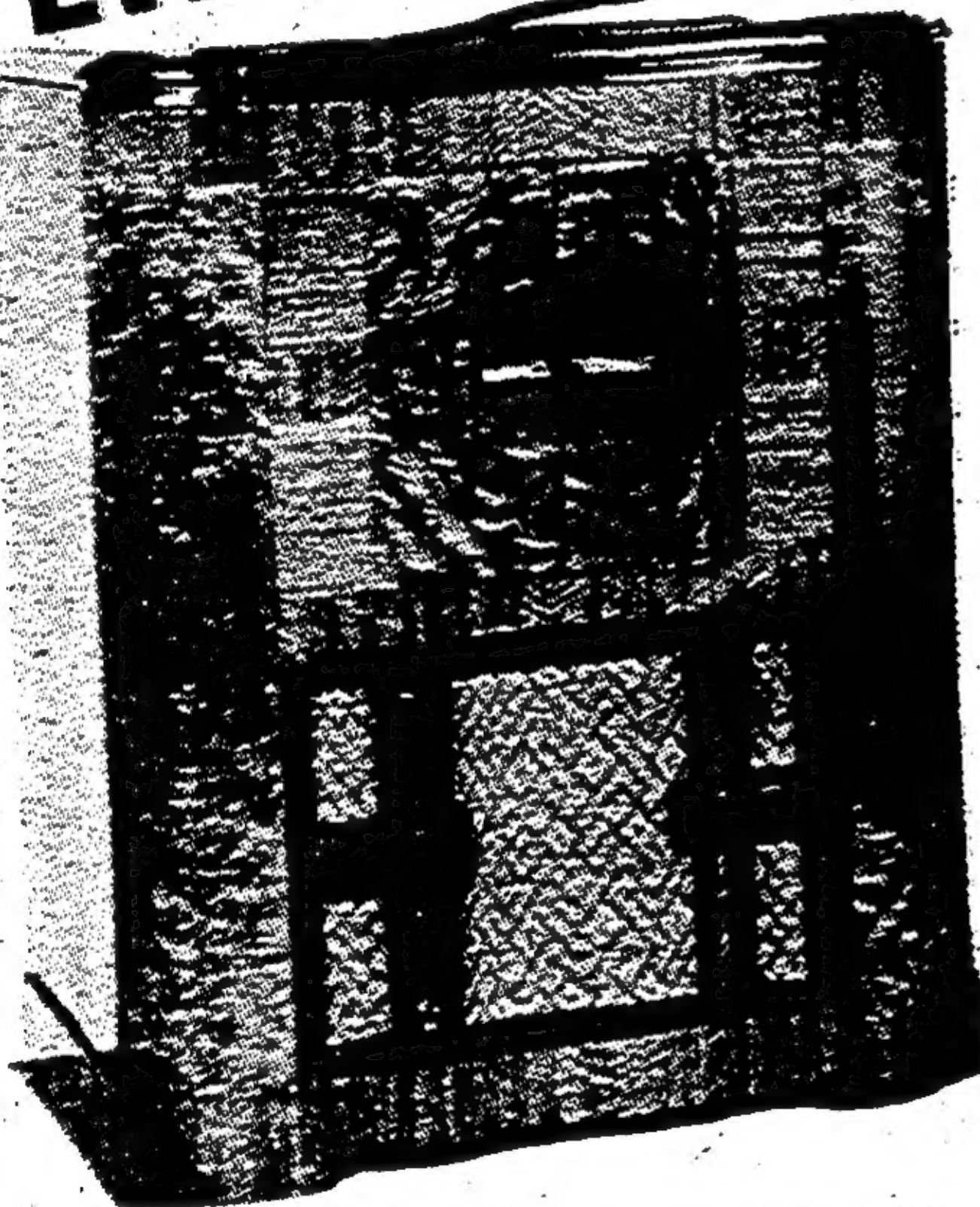


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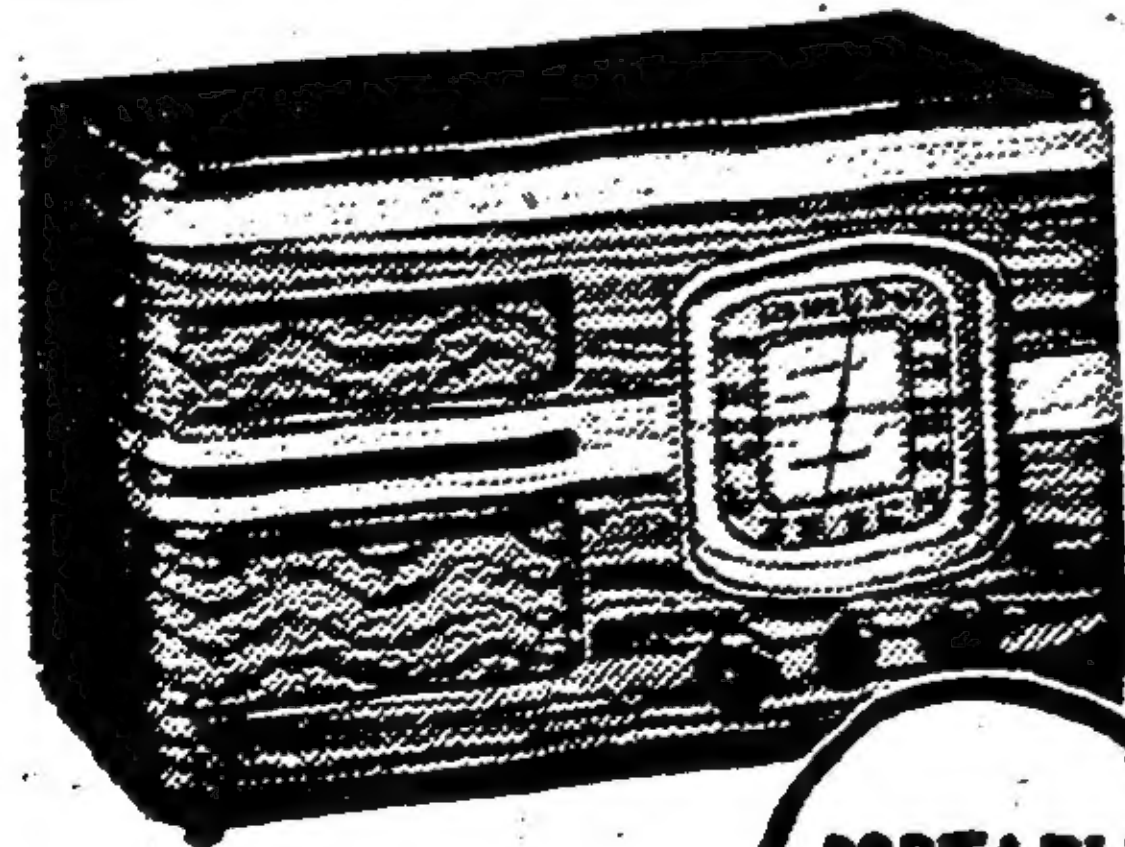
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- RCA METAL TUBES
- BEAUTY-TONE CABINETS

**GREATEST VALUES
EVER OFFERED!**



PHONOGRAPH-
Radio
MODEL
U-109

RCA Victor electric tuning, radio phone model U-109. The ultimate in both phonograph and radio! Automatic Record Changer, powerful motor, Feathertouch tone-arm and pickup. Higher Fidelity tone. 16 tubes, all foreign and domestic frequencies. Sonic-Arc Magic Voice, Magic Brain, Magic Eye, Metal Tubes!



PORTABLE Model 85T1: 5 tubes, world-wide reception. Superheterodyne, 5" dynamic speaker, easy-reading dial, automatic volume control.

PORTABLE
MODEL
85T1

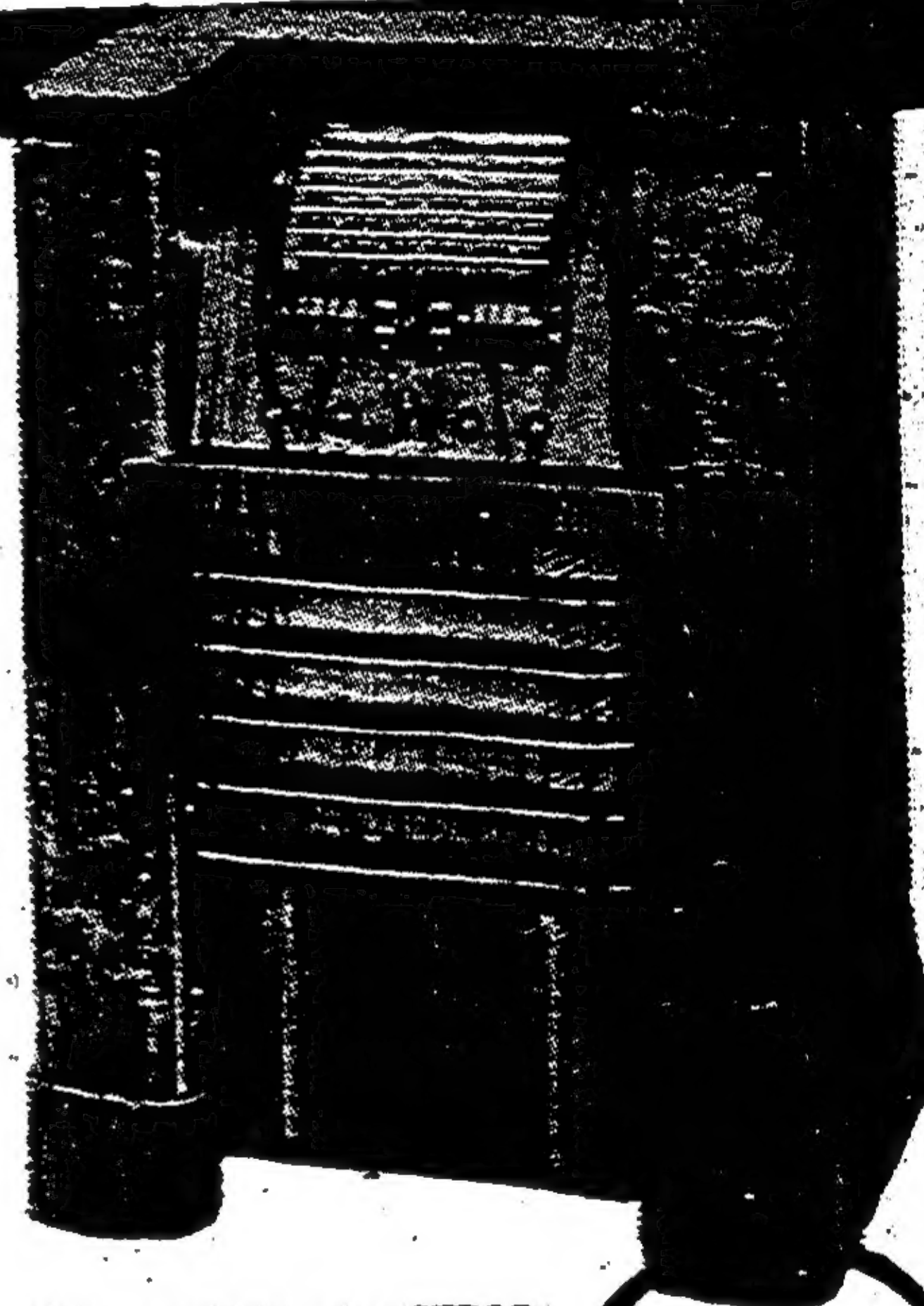


THEY'RE here! 39 super-feature radios that are causing a tremendous sensation everywhere! The only radios that offer you Electric Tuning, Sonic-Arc Magic Voice—and many other startling inventions—at amazingly low prices!

For you, this means more stations—greater power—increased selectivity! More gloriously life-like than ever before! Don't miss our Xmas special showing NOW!



**CHRISTMAS
SPECIAL**



RCA VICTOR ELECTRIC TUNING Model 816K—A luxurious 16-tube model of RCA Victor electric tuning magic, automatic frequency control, overseas dial and armchair control.

ELECTRIC
TUNING
816 K

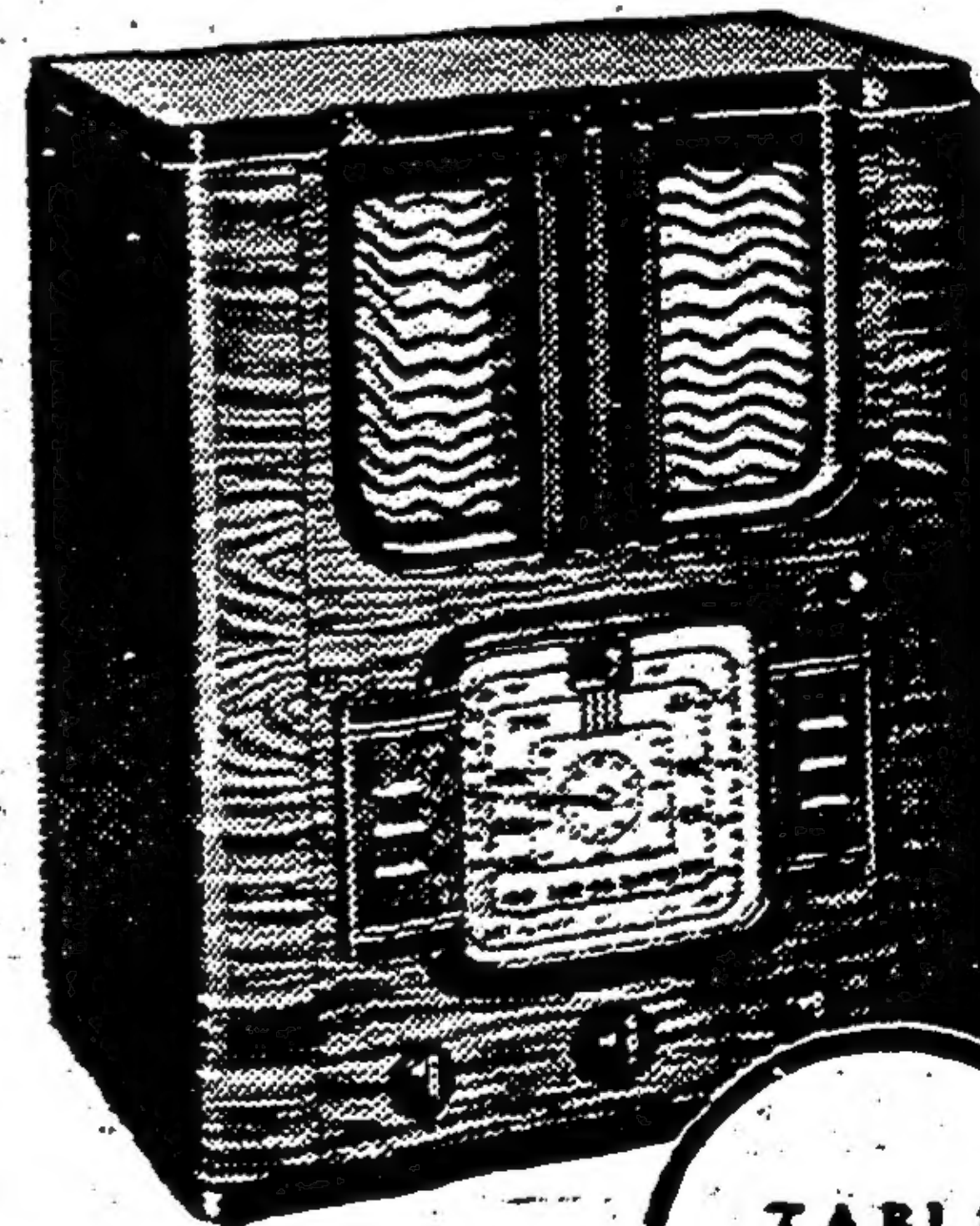


TABLE Model 810T: 10 tubes, world-wide reception. Magic Brain, Magic Eye, Sunburst dial, tone control, phonograph connection. RCA Metal Tubes.

TABLE
MODEL
810T

ON DISPLAY AT ALL RADIO STORES & DEPARTMENTAL STORES

Distributors:—CLIPPER MERCHANDISING COMPANY, China Building, Hong Kong.